FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 83 *28 April 1978*

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Tripartite Talks on Parana River Begin in Asuncion	A 1	1/A6
Central American Countries To Strengthen Coffee Bloc	A 1	1/A6

ARGENTINA

Junta Holds Meeting; To Resume 2 May	B 1	1/A7
Massera Views Ties Between Economy, Politics	B 1	1/A7
Massera Holds Meeting With Vice Admirals	B 2	1/A8
Agosti Appeals for Rapid Naming of President	B 2	1/A8
Planning Minister Laidlaw Discusses Ministry Activities	B 4	1/A10
UCR Leadership Issues Statement of Goals [LA NACION 23 Apr]	B 6	1/A12
Statement Draws Police Communique	B 8	1/A14
Official Called Optimistic on Corpus, Itaipu Talks	B 9	1/B1
Harguindeguy's Statement Described as Explosive	B 9	1/B1
Briefs: Balance of Payments Surplus	B 10	1/B2

BOLIVIA

Students Seize La Paz University	C 1	1/B3
MNR, PRA To Join Siles Zuazo's FUDP	C 1	1/B3
ELN Plans To Participate in Elections	C 1	1/B3
Parties Rush To File Before Deadline	C 2	1/B4
Moreira Faction of FSB Holds Convention	C 2	1/B4

BRAZIL

JORNAL Views Reorientation in Carter's Foreign Policy [25 Apr]	D 1	1/B6
Simonsen To Leave for Mexico City IMF Talks	D 2	1/B7
Governor Appointments Announced; Comments Noted	D 2	1/B7
Natel Appointed in Sao Paulo	D 2	1/B7
Sao Paulo Governor Comments	D 2	1/B7
MDB President Comments on Appointments	D 2	1/B7
Cardinal Brandao Vilela Comments on Geisel Regime [JORNAL DO BRASIL 24 Apr]	D 3	1/B8
Rio Grande do Sul Pollution Caused by 'Red Tide'	D 3	1/B8

CHILE

Pinochet Renews Vow Against Political Activities	E 1	1/B9
Labor 'Group of 10' Plans Rival May Day Rally	E 2	1/B10
Rival Observance Forbidden	E 3	1/B11
Returning Communist Leader Forbidden To Stay	E 3	1/B11
Exiled Socialists Reject Pinochet's Amnesty	E 3	1/B11
Minister Denies Sale of Copper Mine to Exxon	E 4	1/B12
Briefs: Salvadoran Minister Visiting	E 4	1/B12

COLOMBIA

President Answers Critics on Canal, Cost of Living F 1 1/B13
Lopez Michelsen Again Accused of Partiality in Elections F 1 1/B13
Betancur on Andean Pact, Integration With Venezuela F 2 1/B14
Labor Minister Oscar Montoya Resigns F 2 1/B14

ECUADOR

Liberal, Radical Liberal Parties Withdraw Registration G 1 1/C1
Liberals' 'Temporary' Action G 1 1/C1
Radical Liberals' Decision G 1 1/C1

PERU

President Stresses Support for Latin American Integration J 1 1/C2
Socialist Revolutionary Leader on New Constitution J 1 1/C2
[EXPRESO 14 Apr]
Briefs: Charter of Ministry Approved J 2 1/C3

MEXICO

INMECAFE Director Arrested for Embezzlement M 1 1/C4
New INMECAFE Director Named M 1 1/C4
Foreign Secretariat Announces Visit of Spanish King M 1 1/C4

PANAMA

Torrijos Meets United Brands Company Executive N 1 1/C5
Lakas To Become Member of Canal Joint Administration N 2 1/C6
Lewis Galindo To End Mission After Exchange of Treaty Notes N 2 1/C6
Exiles Release Communique, Hold Press Conference N 3 1/C7
Nine-Point Communique N 3 1/C7
Report on News Conference N 4 1/C8
People's Party Issues Manifesto on Upcoming Elections N 5 1/C9
Report on Registration of National Assembly Nominees N 6 1/C10
[LA REPUBLICA 25 Apr]
Commerce Official Reports on Trade With Central America N 6 1/C10

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

President-Elect's Statement on Fishing Policy P 1 1/C11
Oduber States He Was Misquoted on Political Plans P 1 1/C11
Security Minister Leaves on Short Visit to Panama P 1 1/C11

EL SALVADOR

Two Policemen Killed in Clash at Bus Terminal P 2 1/C12

GUATEMALA

Spokesman Reacts to U.S. Refusal To Sell Arms P 2 1/C12
Defense Minister Charges Cuban Advisers in Belize P 2 1/C12
Guatemala City Municipal Workers End Strike P 3 1/C13

HONDURAS

Foreign Minister on Resignation of Salvadoran Colleague P 3 1/C13
Labor Organization Accuses CIA of Plotting Coup P 4 1/C14

NICARAGUA

New Opposition Group Calls for Somoza's Overthrow P 4 1/C14
Sandinists Rob Bank, Businessman; Fires Set P 5 1/D1
Representatives of Managua Schools Hold Press Conference P 5 1/D1

CUBA

Mengistu, Ethiopian Delegation Depart for Home Q 1 1/D2
Radio Hails Visit Q 1 1/D2
Almeida Defends Africa Policy, Supports Namibia Q 2 1/D3
Armando Hart Receives Hungary's Kornidesz Q 3 1/D4
Socialist Women Leaders Arrive for Meeting Q 3 1/D4
Hart Davalos Chairs Culture Ministry Meeting Q 3 1/D4
Closing Remarks Q 4 1/D5
Rodriguez Presides Over Ceremony for Garcia Inchaustegui Q 4 1/D5
Envoy to UN Presents Credentials to Waldheim Q 4 1/D5
Briefs: New Merchant Ship Q 4 1/D5

OTHER COUNTRIES

GUYANA

Soviet Geological Team Arrives in Country V 1 1/D6
[GUYANA CHRONICLE 21 Apr]
Prime Minister Burnham, Delegation Visit DPRK [cross-reference] V 1 1/D6
Prime Minister Burnham Visits GDR [cross-reference] V 1 1/D6

JAMAICA

End of Bustamante Dock Strike Reported V 1 1/D6
[Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN 17 Apr]
Public Meetings, Marches Banned by Government V 2 1/D7
[DAILY GLEANER 20 Apr]

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Texaco Labor Problems Reported V 2 1/D7

Item 856-B-5 Pr Ex 7.10: FBIS-LAT-78-83

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50

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TRIPARTITE TALKS ON PARANA RIVER BEGIN IN ASUNCION

PY271835Y Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The tripartite conference of Paraguayan, Argentine and Brazilian delegates began a little after 0920 today at the Foreign Ministry to seek agreement on the use of the Parana River, specifically in the case of the hydroelectric dams of Itaipu and Corpus. Since this meeting is considered a continuation of the meeting held in March 1978 at the Ita Enramada Hotel [in Asuncion], there were no speeches and the delegates immediately began deliberations behind closed doors.

Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues spoke at length with all delegates, his presence indicating the importance of this regional meeting. It is expected that the meeting will end tomorrow.

The heads of the three delegations, Senator Carlos Augusto Saldivar from Paraguay; Capt Gualter Allara, Argentine Foreign Ministry under secretary; and Ambassador Hermes Pereira de Arajjo from Brazil, agreed that they will make every effort to find solutions to the problems regardless of how difficult and complex the subjects are.

The Paraguayan delegation is made up of Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Francisco Barreiro Mafiodo; Enzo Debernardi, president of the National Power Administration Council, and Rear Adm Guillermo Haywood, ret. The latter is delegate to Corpus. The national delegates pointed out that the Paraguayan position is to defend the use and exploitation of its internal rivers, such as the Monday, Acaray and Nacunday, and to avoid excessive flooding of national territory as a consequence of hydroelectric projects.

CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO STRENGTHEN COFFEE BLOC

PA2717477 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] A bloc formed among the Central American countries which produce wild coffee is being strengthened with an eye toward bolstering prices, sustaining the market and avoiding speculation. Associations of coffee producers of the Central American area are aware of the very critical position of the product on the international market and feel that it is necessary to take measures to face up to the problem.

The coffee producers, according to our source, are seeking a consensus in order to develop a mechanism that will give rise to prices which genuinely reflect supply and demand and not the manipulation of either factor.

In London the Central American countries have been accused of manipulating the market but, according to producers of the area, this charge is groundless since these countries do not have the power to carry out such an action.

Our source said that a meeting of the representatives of the Central American countries which produce mild coffee is planned for next week.

JUNTA HOLDS MEETING ; TO RESUME 2 MAY

PY280135Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Communique issued by military Junta in Buenos Aires on 27 April]

[Text] The military Junta met today beginning at 1700 in its usual headquarters at the congress building.

The meeting discussed issues dealing with the development of the national reorganization process.

Regarding the structure of power, the conclusions of the three forces were reviewed and it was decided to continue discussing the issue on Tuesday, 2 May, in order to make a decision sometime next week.

The meeting of the military junta ended at 1830.

MASSERA VIEWS TIES BETWEEN ECONOMY, POLITICS

PY271919Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1620 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text of speech by Adm Emilio Massera at luncheon given by industry and commerce businessmen in Buenos Aires on 27 April]

[Excerpts] Each man and each country is an economic entity, but above all they are moral and political entities.

Politics must awaken faith, provide security and justice and show leadership, not hide under cozy mediocrity. It must kindle people's enthusiasm first, and then the economy will improve, production will increase and creative rather than speculative investments will be encouraged.

This is all very logical because the economy works with figures which affect only part of our personality, while politics, inspiring discouragement, fear or hope, works with existential values which can move men and countries to either adopt small and short-sighted attitudes or stir themselves toward truly vital effort.

Of course, many solutions will depend on the technical effectiveness of economic management. But, beware, neither all of these solutions nor the most important will so depend.

Therefore, it seems to me that there is no point in making the economy responsible for all those human motivations which can only be brought into action by the exercise of political power.

Is it good business for foreign capital to invest in Argentina? Taking into account figures, I say yes. But why then we do not have more investment? Perhaps because the necessary confidence has not yet been created by the political power.

That is why I insist that the national reorganization process be carried out to its conclusion, because this process is the fundamental tool to change viewpoints, to change the wrong directions of our efforts, and to recreate a political country in the light of modern, clear and effective ideas.

MASSERA HOLDS MEETING WITH VICE ADMIRALS

FY271435Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1420 GMT 27 Apr 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr--Commander in Chief of the Navy Adm Emilio Massera has met for 2 hours with the vice admirals stationed in the country. The meeting began at approximately 0900 and was held at the "Libertad" Building. The matters discussed during the meeting were not announced.

AGOSTI APPEALS FOR RAPID NAMING OF PRESIDENT

FY271448Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1254 GMT 27 Apr 78 FY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 27 April--Brig Gen Orlando Agosti, commander in chief of the air force, has stated that "the time has come to adopt as quickly as possible" a resolution to "determine who will be the president with absolute powers and when he will assume office." He advocated gradual replacement of the commanders in chief "as a way to strengthen the image of continuity of the process within the country as well as abroad." He avoided confirming whether or not a tacit agreement to designate Lt Gen Jorge Videla as the "fourth man" exists.

Agosti's statements were published in this morning's edition of the newspaper LA NACION. He stated that since the exceptional circumstances have been overcome which impeded designation at the beginning of the process of a president who was not an active military man, "we have only to rechannel [discussion of] the issue in accordance with the appropriate documents."

"Consequently," the air force commander continued, "the only thing remaining for the military junta to do is to decide who will be the president with absolute powers and when he will take office."

"Therefore, I believe the time has come to adopt such a resolution as quickly as possible. With respect to this, rest assured that the decision will be the one most beneficial to the continuity, stability and progress of the national reorganization plan," he told a newsman.

The military junta member was asked about the general belief in a tacit agreement to designate General Videla as the "fourth man" and whether the air force had discussed the subject and established its position in this regard.

Agosti recalled the sad history of tacit agreements and unspoken pacts and their unenlightened characteristics. He stated that this "does not mean that the air force has not studied the subject in depth and arrived at a conclusion regarding which designation would be the most beneficial for the country."

The air force commander stated: "Nonetheless, the importance of this kind of decision forces us to maintain a certain degree of secrecy and an objective attitude so that we can consider any new element or fact in the correct manner--a procedure which helps increase the probability that the proposed solution will be a success."

"Staggered replacement in accordance with the needs of each armed forces branch will also allow us to capitalize on the experience of some members of the military junta who have been serving there since its beginning, once new members are incorporated into the power structure."

He stated: "This will guarantee the existence of better conditions to overcome any difficulty which may arise in fulfilling the duties of the junta and the president."

In answer to a question he rejected the term "new power structure," since we "are only trying to implement with deeds the structure which is already specified in our basic documents."

Agosti explained that "until now, for circumstantial reasons, a member of the military junta has been president of the nation. With the disappearance of these exceptional reasons comes the time to normalize the structure initially conceived and to designate a president who is not a member of the junta."

He continued by saying: "It cannot be said with certainty that there is real need to announce simultaneously the date for adoption of the original structure and the name of the person who will be president. However, the air force believes it would be beneficial to clear up the subject in all its aspects as soon as possible."

During another part of the report the air force commander said he considered it "premature" to fix positions regarding the supposed need to establish a council of state. He said that in case that decision is adopted it "should be based on detailed and careful studies to avoid introducing any kind of judicial-political procedures fated to failure because of incompatibility with the environment."

He said that the economic plan has not been disputed by the air force and added that "I could hardly publicly dispute subjects which I have supported within the junta." He declined to speak about the well-known feats in this field. However, he did mention what he considered "delays"--not errors--in the economy "in the achievement of fixed goals." Some of these delays were the result of "external causes not under our control and others were caused by those who 2 years ago promised any kind of sacrifice to work toward national reconstruction but were tempted by siren songs and easy profits as time went by."

Finally, he stated that the economy and its recuperation were subjects of constant concern for the air force as well as for the economic leadership. He then referred to subjects concerning education, which he considered of priority interest "since we are working basically for our youth, who will be the heirs of the future."

He said that the plan proposed by Education Minister Juan Catalan "is coherent and falls generally within the framework of guidelines established by the military junta." He added: "We believe it is a general plan and that we must now study ways to achieve its objectives."

Regarding civilian participation in the government, Agosti added that schools of thought promoting the enforcement of republican principles, federalism and balanced government powers "will be able to cooperate at first in the institutional reorganization and later will be able to gradually share the executive responsibilities of government."

He stated that in this stage the armed forces will "supervise the process through its commanders in the military junta, until the advances achieved show that citizens have found new channels which will assure appropriate and definitive representation." All this will be done based on one postulate: "not to return to the type of government existing prior to 24 March 1976."

Agosti added that he believes it is premature to say what the army will decide regarding the proposal for national unity, although it was drafted [as received] and is still under study within the air force. Furthermore, he noted that the air force is drafting a statement and will study at the proper time a statement submitted by the navy.

Regarding the need for a political plan, he noted that he believes a more appropriate name would be "the drafting of the political basis for restoring democracy in Argentina," because the word "proposal" implies "subsequent public consultation."

After adding that such action "is not urgent," he was asked his ideas about the creation of an opinion movement.

He noted: "I do not doubt that the creation of an opinion movement supporting the process will become an important factor in the national reorganization process, but it must be realized that words must become actions and that actions become great when they are not meaningless. That is why this should be guided by worthy and serious ideals put at the service of higher national interests and isolated from sectorial and partisan ambitions."

He reported that the armed forces are making an analysis of the national situation which will culminate in a document concerning such a movement. He added that this declaration "will establish the basis for a solid and stable democracy" and that "this declaration will not be drafted as a fixed program to avoid attrition [desgastes]. Therefore, we must discard any provisions regarding schedules, dates or deadlines other than the gradual fulfillment of objectives of the national reorganization process."

Later Agosti stated that approval of the new statute for political parties "depends exclusively on fulfillment of the objectives established by the junta" and also largely on how the political sectors answer with deeds the guidelines which the government junta will establish for the development of the process."

Finally, he said that the draft of the new professional associations law is in "a stage of adjustment" with the guidelines of the social works law which will be enforced. He added that this means that the professional associations law must be approved as soon as possible "to be able to reorganize union activity." Moreover, the air force believes that "all problems which may arise from the enforcement of this law must be analyzed and solved."

PLANNING MINISTER LAIDLAW DISCUSSES MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

PY271427V Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr--In a press conference held today Planning Minister Carlos Enrique Laidlaw discussed the structural reorganization of the Planning Ministry, the work of an interministerial group in charge of coordination and reconciliation of existing projects which will begin operating tomorrow, the elaboration of a project and a plan for the process of national reorganization, and the implementation of a medium-term plan which will cover the period 1979-1981.

In this press conference the minister emphasized that Argentina cannot continue developing by leaps and indicated that planning is a means to develop in orderly fashion. He also said that the final goal of planning is to serve man, to encourage him to develop his values and virtues, to shape new leaders, technicians and even artists.

Laidlaw indicated that first of all the Argentine Government must create conditions favorable to the citizen, stimulate his vocation, and secure his participation in the building of national greatness.

In response to questions from the journalists, Laidlaw also said that the country must be decentralized in every aspect, be it economic, political or financial. He added that the Argentine must be rewarded for his extraordinary contribution during the past 2 years. However, he indicated that those who might go against the established rules or consider themselves to be above them should be punished.

General Laidlaw also said that the current reorganization of the Planning Ministry does not mean a rejection of everything that has been done by his predecessor and added that his is an impersonal job based on a coherent and stable course of action aimed at the implementation of established objectives.

Still answering questions, the minister stated that relations with the Economy Ministry, both at the human and labor level, are friendly and excellent, and he stressed that the Planning Ministry is not a superministry.

In his press conference the planning minister emphasized that an economy ministry always runs risks such as failure or mediocre performance, which is why he and his team believe that the basic guideline is to avoid artificial, encyclopedic, sloppy, incoherent, or, worse still, contradictory plans; that is to say, avoid trying to manage the economy on paper alone.

Another highlight of the press conference was the minister's assertion that at the beginning of 1979 he will provide the government which will succeed the current one with a medium-term plan, that preparation of the future political plan is the exclusive responsibility of the armed forces and that, once this plan is drawn up, its implementation will depend exclusively on the circumstances which the interior minister clearly outlined yesterday.

The planning minister reported that at this point the ministry has 315 employees and assistants out of the 891 slots created initially. He also added that adjustments will continue to make this ministry a flexible and operational body.

General Laidlaw stressed that at this point national planning can be divided into two portions: The first is the national plan and the national reorganization plan. These two basic documents deal with the process as a whole and are the exclusive responsibility of the military junta. The second portion is made up of long-, medium- and short-term plans for which the executive branch has primary responsibility.

Laidlaw announced that the national reorganization plan (called Foundation Stage in the past) must provide a precise outline of sectorial objectives sought by the process, in line with the reasons given for the intervention of the armed forces and the act of purposes and intent. He also said that the national reorganization plan must provide a clear-cut definition of the large intermediate stages.

He stated that the document called Foundation Stage is the basis of national reorganization. It outlines the overall objective of the stage, the general strategy to be followed, the development of basic goals and ends by giving a general review of the situation to date.

Laidlaw revealed that it is only this year that the Planning Ministry will begin working on the long-term plan aimed at improving the basic facilities and services of the nation in order to fulfill the requirements of development and security.

With regard to the medium-term plan, Laidlaw stated that its objective is an overall integration of government actions for a given period, which is why the period between 1979 and 1981 must be given priority attention. In view of the time shortage the Planning Ministry will propose several basic objectives (not more than four or five) and a framework of guidelines which will help orient the actions of each ministry. Once these documents are approved they will be complemented by a document prepared by the Economy Ministry which will outline the economic-financial strategy to be followed during this period.

General Laidlaw also spoke of the short-term plan which will guide the action of the government for one calendar year within the framework of the national budget. Laidlaw stated that together with the Finance Secretariat his ministry has drawn up a plan of action and has outlined certain basic guidelines to orient the preparation of the short-term plan which will establish the objectives which must be attained in 1979.

With regard to provincial planning, the minister indicated that it is advisable to work on schematic plans which outline the goals and establish the steps to be followed for their attainment. At the same time complementary projects such as feasibility studies and engineering studies must be prepared for each priority issue. This would facilitate the execution of projects as soon as resources become available.

In his lengthy press conference the planning minister also spoke about orientation programs going on here in connection with international technical cooperation, for which large funds are available through UN, OAS, FAO, IDB programs as well as those of other international organizations.

He finally stated that in this field the United Nations development program has organized an international conference from 30 August to 12 September this year.

UCR LEADERSHIP ISSUES STATEMENT OF GOALS

PY25153OY Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 23 April 78 p 13 PY

[Text] A group of citizens, members of the Radical Civic Union (UCR), released a document yesterday to make their position known as it really is "and not as others intend to make us appear, through the ill-intentioned use of material resources greater than ours."

The statement was signed by Ricardo Balbin, Carlos Contin, Francisco Rabanal, Luis Leon, Victor Martinez, Horacio Garcia, Alfredo Mosso, Raul Galvan, Felipe Abdala, Luis Arias, Rolando Rompadre, Juan Trilla, Juan Carlos Pugliese, Eduardo Angeloz, Carlos Janik, Nader Yamil, Victorio Torrent, Lucio Martinez Garreno, Jose Hansen, Antonio Berhongaray, Guillermo Douglas Rincon, Hector Jorge Velazquez, Jose Zenteno Cornejo, Osvaldo Amieva Saravia, Carlos Spina, Marti Rivereros, Benjamin Zavalia, Luis Lencina, Arturo Illia, Carlos Perette, Rodolfo Garcia Leyenda, Cesar Garcia Puente, Raul Alfonsin, Roberto Billinghurst, Ricardo Colombo, Julio C. Martinez and Antonio Troccoli.

The UCR statement indicated, with reference to those who indulge in this ill-willed game, that "both wings of this group deny the principles upheld by the majority of the people: the extreme leftwing, which may flourish in backward societies; and the absolutist liberalism which--paradoxically as it may seem--has returned to free economy and the thought that monopoly and capital concentration can provide a saving formula."

The statement added that both wings are detrimental to national unity, which "is not meant to be a totalitarian uniformity. Nor does it deny pluralism, which is expressed through political parties."

Even though the UCR acknowledged the decision to speed up progress toward democracy as much as possible, it warned that "it will not play the game of sectors seeking political solutions in extreme attitudes; our position has no room for violence or support for particular interests."

Further on the statement added that dialog between leaders--the armed forces--and sectors outside the power structure must be genuine, giving the latter their due. The statement indicated that "dialog is based on differences of opinion and its goal is reconciliation of these opinions."

The group of UCR citizens stated that "it must be understood once and for all that the political solution demanded by the nation cannot be sought through the imposition of enforced support but must result from the sum of efforts from all sectors. Political representation is based on the trust of the people and not on the self-confidence of political theoreticians who do not take into account the true situation of the country."

Later the statement pointed out that if the armed forces' goal is democratic they cannot "seek to create a party which would express their position because the armed forces should be a symbol of national unity and never constitute a faction. Otherwise the country would lapse into dictatorship" and this would preclude the attainment of a democratic objective.

Pursuant to this introduction the UCR citizens expressed concern over the problems of the nation "in line with a clearcut political responsibility which, even though it cannot be exercised for the time being, is a certain source of commitment." They stated that union, peace, justice and security of and among Argentines continues to be a top priority. They also acknowledged "the importance of the president of the nation having reasserted the intent of the armed forces to attain a representative, republican and federal democracy, and of having made a call for dialog." They are, however, concerned over the lack of explanation of the role which national opinion should play in this dialog and the ways and means which must be used to implement it.

The statement called for the reestablishment of political activities and the normalization of labor unions. At the same time it criticized terrorism of any type.

The statement questioned the current economic policy, which "continues to give rise to overall dissatisfaction. It is not possible at this point to blame the existing difficulties on the situation inherited from 24 March 1976."

The statement added that not only the political sectors, but production and labor sectors as well are demanding changes in economic policy, "changes which will lead to fulfillment of objectives and to strengthening the national economy."

After reasserting an inclination toward dialog, the UCR statement reaffirmed a rejection of any attempts at cooperativism and added that "no one must mistake the inalienable need to participate in the basic decision of the nation for the desire to obtain public jobs."

With reference to foreign policy the statement asserted that it must be dynamic and vigorous, "clearly reflecting our people's position, which will accept no impairment of sovereignty, without this meaning that Argentina is unwilling to help Latin American integration."

It was finally indicated that all the above concerns have been outlined with special regard to the youth. The statement concluded by urging "the various levels of society to begin all together, without sacrificing their individual characteristics, a march which would demonstrate the desire for national unity and would create an atmosphere favorable to overall development of the nation."

Statement Draws Police Communique

PY251351Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1945 GMT 24 Apr 78 PY

[Communique released by federal police in Buenos Aires on 24 April]

[Text] The Argentine federal police inform the people of the following:

1. On 22 April personnel from the government proceeded to draw up indictments in view of the fact that Law No 21,323, which prohibits political activity throughout the entire country, had been violated.

2. This measure was taken in view of the fact that a group of Radical Civic Union leaders, breaking this law, met in a lawyer's office in this capital and then handed to the press a clearcut political document which contains comments regarding current affairs in the country and which urges, among other things, renewal of political and labor activities.

3. The case has been assigned to Judge Norberto A. Giletta, of the federal criminal and correctional court of the first instance, Secretariat No 12 headed by Jorge Llompart.

4. Finally, this headquarters once again repeats that Law No 21,323 is in force, that its clauses are sufficiently clear within its legal framework, and that it prohibits and punishes:

A. With imprisonment of 1 month to 3 years: ideological-political organization or dissemination and organization of or participation in political meetings (Article 1).

B. With imprisonment of 1 month to 2 years: for any person who distributes or provides printed material which disseminates events and pictures or which serves as a form of communication, as indicated by the forms of criminal conduct defined in Article 1 (Article 2).

C. With imprisonment of 1 month to 1 year: for any person responsible for any type of public communication or statement which discusses events and pictures or serves as a form of communication, as indicated by the forms of criminal conduct defined in Article 1, including those who carry out the dissemination (Article 3).

OFFICIAL CALLED OPTIMISTIC ON CORPUS, ITAIPU TALKS

PY261713Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] We will undertake this new round of tripartite negotiations with the same spirit we have had since the beginning--that is, to exhaust every possibility in finding a final solution to the problems in the Parana region.

This statement was made by Capt Walter Allara, Foreign Ministry under secretary, who will travel to Asuncion to take part in the trilateral meeting with Brazil and Paraguay. There, representatives of the three countries will discuss plans to assure the compatibility of the Corpus and Itaipu dams, as well as other subjects related to the development of the Parana region.

Asked about any progress toward solution of the problem, the official appeared to be reasonably optimistic. Captain Allara stated: We have spared no effort in the negotiation; on the contrary, we have contributed our efforts and made constructive proposals from the start.

The under secretary explained that bilateral talks are only one way of exploring the various alternatives available in working toward a trilateral understanding. The official added: These meetings should be considered a means to facilitate our joint efforts and solve our problems, and to work toward a policy of reciprocal cooperation in all fields.

HARGUINDEGUY'S STATEMENT DESCRIBED AS EXPLOSIVE

PY271858Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1332 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[By Jose Ignacio Lopez]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr--The statement issued by the interior minister on Tuesday at government house exploded like a bomb on the political scene. Once again, as he has done on several occasions over the last 2 years, it was Gen Albano Harguindeguy's role to remove all the political expectations which were created by the president's statement.

It would be an error to believe that the minister's statement was a personal reaction, a controversial statement. We must, therefore, note that General Harguindeguy did not make an impromptu statement. The minister attended the government house press room with the sole purpose of reading a few previously written pages. There was no improvisation in his actions. Moreover, it is also suggestive that a man who is used to controversial dialog and inclined to answer questions, explicitly declined to do so.

Furthermore, according to military sources, the interior minister spent a long time at the Libertador Building, the army headquarters, where Gen Jorge Rafael Videla was also present.

Moreover, since the minister issued this statement a few days after the holding of a couple of high-level military meetings, it would not be reckless to say that the statement issued by the minister on Tuesday reveals the present thinking of the military leadership.

In any event, in the political world General Harguindeguy's statement was taken as an attempt to eliminate any expectations which were created by the president's speech of 29 March.

It is evident that the revival of political activity which was alluded to by the interior minister on Tuesday took place precisely after the message which General Videla delivered at the last governors' meeting.

Nevertheless, although there is within political circles some tendency to confront the interior minister (?with) the president's speech, nothing leads to the belief that General Harguindeguy has gone beyond the orders of the president.

We find, however, an obvious difference in tone and political style between the presidential message and the minister's statement. It can also be added that General Harguindeguy used a degree of bluntness disproportionate to the moderate political party movements which he tried to disallow.

Although it is true that in the last few weeks there have been political meetings and even conclaves of a political nature, such as the one held last Saturday by UCR [Radical Civic Union] men, these meetings were characterized by moderation and the desire to find an opportunity to begin the stage of institutional transition, a desire which is practically unquestioned by any part of the Argentine political spectrum.

In his 29 March speech, General Videla stated that the creation of political parties would eventually become a necessity in order to create a few strong but programmatic currents of thought. The interior minister, however, emphatically preferred to forbid the activity of political parties and clearly stated that most political parties, as we knew them between 1973 and 1976, would not be accepted in the Argentina of the future.

Since General Harguindeguy added, however, that in the future, not now, there will be a place for political parties, we wonder how this mutation will take place: Through what new tricks, amidst the stagnant political activity, will these old parties be changed for others?

It is also true that politicans have not been characterized throughout these last 2 years by their contribution of ideas or procedures aimed at preventing a situation like that which we experienced until 1976.

The statement which the interior minister issued Tuesday will, nevertheless, cause new debate. But for now, and until new evidence makes us think otherwise, his statement--beyond his personal style--must be understood as the predominant thought within the armed forces.

BRIEFS

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SURPLUS--Buenos Aires, 21 Apr--There was a $1.12 billion surplus in the balance of payments during the first 3 months of the year. The net growth of the trade balance was $241 million and exports were estimated at $1.2 billion. These figures were issued by the Central Bank. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2030 GMT 21 Apr 78 PY]

STUDENTS SEIZE LA PAZ UNIVERSITY

PY280300Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The Bolivian military government is worried about events which took place this afternoon when a group of students took control of La Paz University and announced that university autonomy had been restored in an openly defiant attitude toward the government.

Signs were posted on the doors of the rectorate and sentry posts manned by students were set up at the university's main building. The taking over of the university occurred a few hours after the government's warning that it is determined to take harsh measures to repress student unrest, which has intensified in the past 2 weeks.

MNR, PRA TO JOIN SILES ZUAZO'S FUDP

PY271825Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Within the next few hours the historic National Revolutionary Movement [MNR], led by Victor Paz Estenssoro, and Walter Guevara Arze's Authentic Revolutionary Party [PRA] will officially join the Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP], led by former President Hernan Siles Zuazo, according to a statement made by Abel Ayoroa Argandona, secretary general of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left.

He also said that Falange leader Mario Gutierrez and his party had also requested to join that center-left front but that request had been categorically turned down by Hernan Siles Zuazo.

ELN PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

PY271412Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0125 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 26 Apr--The National Liberation Army [ELN], founded in Bolivia in 1967 by Ernesto "Che" Guevara, will participate in the 9 July elections, "but it has not wholly discarded armed struggle."

This announcement was made here today to Radio Fides by Osvaldo "Chato" Peredo, head of the ELN and leader of the unsuccessful guerrilla experiment at Teoponte in 1970.

Peredo stressed that the "elections called by President Hugo Banzer are part of an imperialist plan in Latin America and they are fixed in advance for the official candidate to win."

He said: "Nevertheless, we will participate because we believe that real conditions exist for popular mobilization in a broad political struggle."

He added: "We take it for granted that there will be electoral fraud, but if more people participate, that fraud will become more difficult."

After the guerrilla defeat at Teoponte, Peredo went into exile in Chile and then lived for several years in Cuba as a political exile.

The revolutionary leader is the brother of Antonio Peredo, who was in detention in Bolivian prisons for 1 and 1/2 years because of his ELN connections. By profession "Chato" Peredo is a doctor, whereas his brother Antonio is a newsman. They are brothers of "Inti" and "Coco" Peredo, who fought by the side of "Che" Guevara in the Nancahuazo guerrilla movement in Bolivia which ended with the death of the Argentine guerrilla fighter at the rural town of La Higuera on 8 October 1967. "Chato" Peredo returned to the country after the general amnesty which was granted on 18 January of this year.

He stated: "This country is experiencing favorable conditions for political struggle. It is enough to point out the presence among us, not only of the revolutionary leaders, but also labor leaders like Juan Lechin Oquendo and former President Hernan Siles Zuazo."

Peredo, who spoke with a marked Cuban accent, said in his statement to the local radio station that the ELN "has not discarded armed struggle and we cannot predict what will happen to our movement in the future. But our actions will depend on the development of national politics," he concluded.

PARTIES RUSH TO FILE BEFORE DEADLINE

PY2801317 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] With less than 24 hours before the deadline established by national electoral authorities for political parties to legalize their registration, it was reported that up to the early hours of this evening more than 40 organizations had complied with this regulation.

The parties which have requested registration with the national electoral court at the last moment are the following: the Bolivian Socialist Falange, headed by Gaston Moreira; [words indistinct] of the People, representative, (Fernando Tope Valdez); the National Action of the People, representative, (Rene Canela); the Tupac Katari National Movement, (Jose Ticona); the People's Nationalist Union, Juan Pereda Asbun; the Liberal Party, Eduardo Montes y Montes and others; the Revolutionary Front of the Left, representative, Manuel Morales Davila; the Barrientist Revolutionary Party, (Enrique Gallardo); the Movement of the National Left, representative, (Luis Sandoval Moron); the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, representative, Antonio Aranibar Quiroga; the Revolutionary Workers Party, Guillermo Lora; the Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left, (Mario Carrasco Marini); the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the People, Jaime Arrellano Castaneda the Authentic Revolutionary Party, Walter Guevara Arze; the Bolivian Democratic Union, (Carlos Dalves); and the Tupac Katari Indian Movement, representative, (Constantino Lima).

As can be observed, there are many parties and fronts which wish to participate in the coming elections. It is known that other parties will register within the next few hours.

MOREIRA FACTION OF FSB HOLDS CONVENTION

PY2614437 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Although the national leadership of the Bolivian Socialist Falange, FSB, has forbidden any sector of this party to organize or hold meetings or conferences, the group headed by Gaston Moreira, former vice president of the FSB, opened the group's 15th convention.

The convention was held in the Avenida Theater with a full audience of FSB members. The meeting was headed by Gaston Moreira, who was supported by Jaime Tapia Alipaz, (Mario Aguilar Centeno), (Alex Quiroz), (Saguier Villa). Alfonso Guzman Ampuero and other leaders of this party.

According to the agenda, the leaders will study the internal situation of the party in order to decide their future political position and reelect new national and departmental FSB officials.

The main speech was delivered by Gaston Moreira, who in an emotional voice condemned the attitude of the FSB national leadership, charging that it wants to manipulate the party personally. He then said:

[begin Moreira recording] Falange comrades, we will no longer allow the dignity of the party to be violated or its ideals (?trampled on) with impunity [words indistinct]. This historic convention is to put a stop to all that. The Falange of the godfathers who decided the future of the party with servility and meanness is over. Those who denied us the right to freely debate our problems also denied [words indistinct] by taking over the party and managing it [words indistinct] not allowing disagreement and criticism. [end recording]

As you have heard, the words used by Gaston Moreira were very harsh, although he did not directly refer to Mario Gutierrez, who expelled him from the FSB due to internal disagreements.

Gaston Moreira also said that the party had gone through two decades of shame during which its leaders, overconfident and arrogant in their convictions, carried the Falange to a state of discredit and frustration.

Moreira is blamed for having signed an agreement supporting the candidacy of Gen Juan Pereda Asbun.

With regard to party discipline, Moreira said:

[begin Moreira recording] Discipline is based on the moral authority of (?leaders) who have completely dedicated themselves to serving Bolivia [words indistinct] giving our lives to patriotic ideals. We cannot permit this sense of discipline to be violated by one man who [words indistinct] putting in his hands [words indistinct] destiny of the FSB. [end recording]

Moreira then reported on the work he carried out when he was acting FSB president and Mario Gutierrez was absent, in charge of the Bolivian diplomatic representation at the United Nations.

According to political observers, the fact that the FSB headed by Gaston Moreira held a convention is proof that this party is definitely divided. The majority of FSB members are still faithful to Mario Gutierrez and the others respond to Gaston Moreira.

There is also another FSB sector, the left group, headed by (Enrique Riveros), which separated from the Falange in 1968 due to ideological disagreements.

The FSB headed by Mario Gutierrez has called for a national rally to be held in Cochabamba in the first half of May, during which the internal crisis of the party will be studied.

JORNAL VIEWS REORIENTATION IN CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY

PY261900Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 25 Apr 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "A Difficult Life"]

[Text] With strong words condemning the Cambodian regime, which really deserves them, President Carter has rekindled the human rights issue. The most important news, however, came from another part of the world in the announcement that the Soviet Union and the United States have not reached an agreement on the SALT negotiations.

This is a setback for Carter, who as a candidate promised to effectively reduce large arsenals and as president has extended a friendly gesture toward the Kremlin by defusing the neutron bomb. And Carter cannot take much consolation in his victory on the Panama Canal treaty since it was achieved under difficult circumstances which prompted the U.S. President to gather all his advisers to have them review the main topics of U.S. foreign policy.

It must be recognized that the former Georgia governor inherited the difficult situation left behind by Kissingerian detente. The handling of this inherited situation requires a great deal of finesse since it was at odds with the traditional commitment of U.S. diplomacy to moral values underpinned by a strict Protestant ethic. We all know that Carter is a representative of that cultural trait which still has significant weight in U.S. society: "the sincere man," the member of the evangelical church. The counter-currents of ideas underpinning detente and the ideas of "the sincere man" produced the turmoil of Carter's first months in government. A year has passed and that concern with values which is responsible for the political renewal to which the people of the United States visibly aspired has not yet found effective ways of asserting itself on an international scene which in many cases does not allow for the mixing of colors, which may involve the option of total war at one end and avoidance of war at the other end. This option frequently leads to compromises and then, where do absolute values go?

Keeping in mind that the world power play abhors vacuums--just as any other natural phenomenon does--we must say that President Carter's hestiations are having their effect in various sectors. The first sector thus affected is U.S. foreign policy which, after having been practically embodied in the brilliant personality of Henry Kissinger, is now going through a period of excessive "democracy," so much so that it may be confused with anarchy. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and national security affairs adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski have avowedly different views on the main issues.

But that does not mean that they are in conflict. The fact is that Carter listens to both of them, and to Andrew Young as well. And while the U.S. President listens, the questions await decisions.

There is much to be learned from what seems to be a period of reorientation and reorganization of the global policy of a great power. Under the seasoned leadership of Cyrus Vance, for instance, that reorganization is affecting the bureaucratic machinery of the State Department which is being subjected to new blood transfusions. New ideas and perspectives can be visualized in the interview granted to JORNAL DO BRASIL by Sol Linowitz, the main negotiator of the new Panama Canal treaty. We can see in that interview that the preconceived visions and the rough edges of U.S.-Latin American relations during Carter's first months in government have been left behind.

The practice of politics is, however, just as necessary as the exchange of ideas, but it cannot put up with protracted consultations, as the President of the United States is discovering through his own painful experience.

SIMONSEN TO LEAVE FOR MEXICO CITY IMF TALKS

PY271554Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen will leave for Mexico City today to attend a meeting of the Internal Committee of the International Monetary Fund. Tomorrow he will speak to the "Group of 24" on behalf of the Latin American countries to urge Japan, the FRG, Switzerland and other countries (?with surpluses) to take measures to bring about deficits in their current accounts in order to reverse the present trend. Minister Simonsen will return next Sunday.

GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED; COMMENTS NOTED

Natel Appointed in Sao Paulo

PY261718Y Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Governor Paulo Egidio was defeated in Sao Paulo. The name of his successor was announced during the program "Sala de Redacao." Laudo Natel will take over the Sao Paulo Government for the third time. The first time he was elected and the following time appointed, which has happened again. The appointment of Natel means defeat for the present governor. During the succession process Paulo Egidio said he would resign if Natel were appointed.

Francelino Pereira from Piaui, current president of National Renewal Alliance, had the support of future Vice President Aureliano Chavez, and was selected as the new governor of Minas Gerais State.

Jarbas Pasarinho was not appointed Para State governor. He will be the future leader in Congress. Alacid Nunez was appointed governor.

The other governors appointed are: Santa Catarina--Jorge Bornhausen, cousin of the present governor: Alagoas--Guilherme Palmeira; Mato Grosso do Norte--Frederico Carlos Soares Campos; and Paraiba--Tarcisio Maia Buriti.

Sao Paulo Governor Comments

PY270333Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia--"I have accepted a principle, a system which took me to the governorship of the state. This very system has now brought former Governor Laudo Natel back to the governorship. Just as I accepted the rules of the game then, I cannot reject them now."

This statement was made by Sao Paulo Governor Paulo Egydio Martins at a press conference he held after announcing the appointment of Laudo Natel as his successor as governor of Sao Paulo State.

MDB President Comments on Appointments

PY280318Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia--MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] President Ulysses Guimaraes said that the MDB was strengthened by the process followed for the appointment of governors.

Guimaraes noted that the MDB has become the channel through which the people are able to express their indignation and disagreement with the process.

CARDINAL BRANDAO VILELA COMMENTS ON GEISEL REGIME

FY251730Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 Apr 78 p 2 FY

[Text] Salvador--During an interview with the JORNAL DA BAHIA published in yesterday's edition, the archbishop of Salvador and primate of Brazil, Avelar Brandao Vilela, stated that "at the beginning, I doubted the possibility of the slow, gradual and secure political relaxation promised by President Geisel. However, with the passage of time, "I came to regard the president as a sincere man who truly wanted to carry out his program, and tried to believe in him."

In Avelar's opinion, "if by chance President Geisel were to leave his government without granting to his successor what I consider an essential minimum in terms of an opening, as has been announced earlier, I believe that would result in certain defeat for Brazil itself." With respect to this he recalled a speech of his in which he stated that "within the present regime, if we hope for democratic normalization to be carried out gradually and securely, then the greater part of that task should be up to the government itself."

With regard to the process of choosing Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo for the presidential succession, Cardinal Brandao Vilela said there are two aspects to consider: "First, that the overruling voice of the high command in previous situations did not operate this time; second, that the president's personal wish predominated."

He added that "the president personally began a new system which may have been deliberately intended to withdraw the decisionmaking power from the high command. If this is true, then it was within the process of political relaxation. If the intention was also to have the military return to their specific functions, then political relaxation was being put into effect."

Even though he stated that "I would not like to comment" on Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo's interviews, Avelar said that "the church wants justice and peace based on love and is determined to continue its defense of human rights with tranquility and fearlessness."

RIO GRANDE DO SUL POLLUTION CAUSED BY 'RED TIDE'

FY260233Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 25 Apr 78 FY

[Text] Brasilia--After a meeting held today by national and foreign experts, the national secretariat for basic actions and health of the Health Ministry came to the conclusion that the phenomenon which took place on the coast of Rio Grande do Sul State was caused by the "red tide."

The final report is based on a unanimous opinion of experts and on the results of microbiological tests. The report also adds that the metal content was no higher than the international standard established for water, air and living organisms.

The report recommends that people abstain from eating shellfish picked up between Chui and Tamandai until 10 May, but places no restrictions on eating fish.

PINOCHET RENEWS VOW AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

PY280316Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Summary] This morning President Augusto Pinochet visited two new factories as part of the national labor celebration. Pinochet held a frank and open dialog with workers and explained recent government measures. He also talked with reporters who came along to gather firsthand information. Pinochet voiced assurances that there would not be any political activity as a result of the recent government measures.

The chief of state visited two industrial plants, a garment factory and a laboratory and was warmly welcomed by workers who stated their support for the president's government policies.

While visiting the laboratory, President Pinochet heard a statement made by (Eduardo Huelman), president of the industrial union, a young union leader who answered a remark made by Pinochet that old union leaders should be respected.

[begin Huelman recording] "Mr President, it is true that the experience of the older leaders is very valuable for the younger leaders like us, and you are right and have the authority to recommend that we respect the older leaders. We recognize that their experience is valuable because of the good things they have done and a lesson because of the bad things. But what happens, Mr President, when students from the union school return to their organization, which is the only union, and ask why it is that no assembly has been held since 11 September 1973? The answer he gets is: because the officials do not allow it. Why haven't they reported on their activity in the last 6 years [words indistinct]? He also asks, why hasn't the union got its legal statutes? And he is told that the labor minister (?has not approved it). Mr President, it is understandable that these older leaders feel bothered by these questions." [end recording]

The president then talked to the workers, stating his satisfaction over the harmony between labor and management. He then answered some of the demands made by union leaders.

[begin Pinochet recording] "I have heard some of your remarks. [words indistinct] They are very meaningful and make sense, but there are two sides to a story, a good side and a bad side. We must act with a cool head on these matters, searching for a solution to allow us to continue [words indistinct] working for the benefit of Chile." [end recording]

The chief of state then spoke to some women who were concerned about the return of political activity.

[begin Pinochet recording] "The economic situation is improving, the social situation is improving, and there is a new status. Of course, there are changes taking place and there are people who want to take advantage of this situation. I am referring to the bad politicians, not the good ones. We must make the distinction. There are honorable politicians [words indistinct] but there are others who only want power. These are the ones we do not want." [end recording]

"The chief of state added: For this, I have the support of good Chileans. I have the support of the great mass of workers who can see that the country is getting on its feet, not for the benefit of the rich or the poor but for their sons. General Pinochet then sent a warm greeting to every worker and emphasized the spirit of friendship at the meeting."

The president then spoke to reporters, emphasizing the positive result of his visit. [begin Pinochet recording] "These visits are helping me to measure the progress of the country because I can compare year after year the progress made in different areas, both in labor and business sectors." [end recording]

Reporters then asked the president about his remark that there would not be any political activity. [begin Pinochet recording] "During these meetings with workers some ladies have asked (?if we are) going to return to elections [words indistinct]. That is why I have tried to calm them down [word indistinct] on political activity [words indistinct] practiced by politicians, since this is not well thought of now by the majority of the people. I also believe that people must understand what is currently happening. We made one step; this step must now be enhanced. The idea is not to make one political opening after another and then to have elections. This must be done step by step. As I said a few days ago, the pathway has been determined. The steps are slow but sure. There is no hurry. There is no rush. As I said yesterday to generals, officers and personnel of the garrison: All the commanders of the armed forces and the director of carabineros have agreed that we must go step by step, that there is no hurry." [end recording]

With regard to the boycott by Australian workers, the president said that he was expecting it because it had been reported days ago.

LABOR 'GROUP OF 10' PLANS RIVAL MAY DAY RALLY

PY271610Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 26 Apr--It was reported here today that the Chilean military government intends to hold several activities on International Labor Day.

But not all workers will be present at these official ceremonies. A group of leaders has reaffirmed their decision to hold a public rally in Santiago on 1 May without government permission. If this rally takes place it will be the first demonstration since the armed forces assumed power in Chile 4 and 1/2 years ago.

However, the situation today is unclear because officials still have to decide whether to grant permission for the rally.

According to the official agenda for 1 May, Chilean President Augusto Pinochet will deliver a speech at a ceremony to be held at Diego Portales Building, the government headquarters.

There he will sign a decree creating the National Labor Council [Consejo Nacional del Trabajo] and then offer a customary toast to representatives of the Labor Front for National Unity [Frente Laboral de Unidad Nacional], an affiliation of several union representatives.

Leaders of some 20 confederations and federations excused themselves from this ceremony and have asked the intendent of Santiago, Chile, to give them permission for the rally. The rally would be held at the Pedro Aguirre Cerda Plaza near downtown Santiago, which before 1973 witnessed several student, union and political meetings.

The organizers are members of the so-called Group of 10, created 2 years ago by leaders who disagree with government policy.

Ernesto Vogel, representative of this organization and president of the Chilean Industrial Railways Federation, said: "We are certain that the government will give us permission."

Although permission has yet to be granted, the Group of 10 has already sent invitations to the World Federation of Trade Unions, to ambassadors, labor representatives accredited to Chile and to other international organizations.

Vogel added: "If permission is denied it would be a discriminatory action because we have the right to celebrate this day, which is ours."

Rival Observance Forbidden

PY280114Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0053 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 27 Apr--The Chilean military government today prohibited an event which various labor organizations had planned to hold on the occasion of International Labor Day.

The Interior Ministry indicated in a communique that the only official act planned for next Monday will take place at the seat of government with the participation of President Gen Augusto Pinochet.

The interior minister stated that "no other event will be authorized" aside from the official celebrations.

RETURNING COMMUNIST LEADER FORBIDDEN TO STAY

PY271840Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Cmdr Enrique Montero, Interior Ministry under secretary, reported a few minutes ago that Cesar Godoy Urrutia, a leader of the dissolved Communist Party, tried today to enter Chile aboard an Aeroperu flight from Mexico.

He added that the Interior Ministry ordered Godoy's immediate reembarcation aboard the same airline because he had not fulfilled the requirements established in Decree Law No 81 and because he tried to ridicule this regulation.

Commander Montero added that the interior minister reiterates the emphatic decision that no one will be allowed to enter the country if he has not complied with this law. He added that a request must be submitted in advance and in accordance with this request and on the basis of personal references, the Interior Ministry will accept or reject the request.

EXILED SOCIALISTS REJECT PINOCHET'S AMNESTY

PY271600Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1045 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Mexico, 27 Apr--The exiled Chilean Socialist Party has rejected the amnesty ordered by Gen Augusto Pinochet's government and demanded that returns to Chile be allowed "without conditions," according to its leaders' statements made here during the celebration of the party's 45th anniversary.

Exiled Chileans in this capital met in the Ho Chi Minh Auditorium of the Autonomous University of Mexico.

They added that they "will continue their struggle against the dictatorship, within the country and abroad."

According to Pedro Vuskovic, political secretary of the regional coordinating office of the Chilean Socialist Party, "we should undertake an international campaign to explain how embarrassing it would be to return to our country under the conditions imposed by the military junta."

He then explained that Chileans who return from abroad are required to swear that they will abandon their political ideas and "that would mean denying ourselves."

In the name of his comrades, Vuskovic expressed his faith in the struggle of the Chilean people and said that the popular movement "is restructuring itself in an extraordinary way, given the country's present circumstances."

He emphasized that the Chilean Socialist Party is in the process of reorganization and "rediscovering its roots." He added that the bases for this renovation are: total autonomy, the struggle for unity of all Latin America in support of democracy, and nondogmatic assimilation of Marxism.

He announced that the party's leaders will meet in May at a place which "we cannot disclose for obvious security reasons, since members of Chile's resistance will participate."

The socialist regional coordinating office made a call to fellow exiled Chileans to undertake a hunger strike to force the military government to reveal the fate of some 2,500 missing persons who have disappeared in Chile since the coup of 1973.

MINISTER DENIES SALE OF COPPER MINE TO EXXON

PY251959Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1716 GMT 25 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 25 Apr--Mines Minister Enrique Valenzuela asserted here today that the Chuquicamata copper deposit will remain in possession of the Chilean state.

It was rumored in the last few days that this mineral deposit, believed to be the biggest open-pit deposit in the world, would be transferred to the U.S. enterprise Exxon.

Valenzuela categorically denied any such plans, however.

The minister said: "There is no deal whatever with that firm."

BRIEFS

SALVADORAN MINISTER VISITING--Salvadoran Economy Minister Roberto Ortiz is visiting the country to get acquainted with the progress of the Chilean economy. This morning he met with President Augusto Pinochet and delivered greetings to him from Salvadoran President Carlos Humberto Romero. He also met with Finance Minister Sergio de Castro and emphasized that these meetings helped to strengthen the cordial relations between the two countries. Ortiz will be returning to his country next Saturday. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Apr 78 PY]

PRESIDENT ANSWERS CRITICS ON CANAL, COST OF LIVING

PA270133Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Text] President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen today responded to the criticism of those whom he called internationalists in recess [internacionalistas en receso] and said that Colombia has in no way endangered its right to free transit through the Canal Zone because of its solidarity with Panama. The chief of state responded to former Foreign Minister Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa's objections to Colombia's position regarding the process that will grant Panama full sovereignty over the canal. In a ceremony held to award the EFE international prize for journalism to Jorge Enrique Pulido of Todelar Network, the president said:

[begin Lopez Michelsen recording] In November 1977, Panama and Colombia exchanged notes before the entire diplomatic corps accredited to the Panamanian Government. At this ceremony, a declaration or resolution by the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives was read and notes were formally exchanged according to which Panama and Colombia promised to sign a treaty as soon as the treaty between Panama and the United States had been approved [words indistinct]. [end recording]

President Lopez Michelsen disclosed the existence of documents guaranteeing Colombia the free passage of its warships and giving preference to the passage of industrial and agricultural products through the canal.

Lopez Michelsen also responded to [words indistinct] Conservative candidate Belisario Betancur for his alleged statements in connection with the cost of living. The president said:

[begin Lopez Michelsen recording] [Passage indistinct] who get staples at lower prices. I have never said such a thing. I do not want to believe that Dr Betancur is acting this way out of ill will but rather because he has been misled by incorrect information. [passage indistinct--end recording]

President Lopez Michelsen also took advantage of the occasion to underscore the high intellectual level of the Colombian press.

LOPEZ MICHELSEN AGAIN ACCUSED OF PARTIALITY IN ELECTIONS

PA272143Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The Ospina-Pastranists [Conservative supporters of Ospina Perez and Pastrana Borrero] today officially expressed support for presidential candidate Belisario Betancur's allegations that President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen has shown partiality toward candidate Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and maintained that the speeches made recently by the chief of state in Narino demonstrate the government's intentions regarding the electoral debate.

The president of this conservative sector told Radio Cadena Nacional that it would be unfortunate if the government should add to its many mistakes a new one--partiality toward a certain candidate.

The political leader said that the present electoral debate presents a good opportunity for the chief executive to decide, once and for all, to fulfill his constitutional obligations and to refrain from interference in the presidential competition.

He added that Betancur is not exaggerating when he denounces the president's intentions which, he said, are now becoming obvious to all Colombians.

BETANCUR ON ANDEAN PACT, INTEGRATION WITH VENEZUELA

PA272147Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] A serious analysis of the Andean Pact was made today by presidential candidate Belisario Betancur, who explained that the problems being encountered in the integration process are caused by the ideological differences existing among member governments.

Betancur spoke this morning to leaders of the Union of Workers of Colombia [UTC]. Giving his opinion of the Andean group, he said: Decisions which are made undemocratically one day are revoked the next day. For this reason, the Cartagena Agreement has been subjected to all kinds of upheavals in all areas. There is a general paralysis, the political leader said.

Betancur said that the Andean Pact must be revived. He added that during his administration, he hopes to realize Bolivar's dream of integrating nations so that they can help stimulate each other's development.

Border problems between Colombia and Venezuela should definitely continue to be handled through friendly discussions which respect the rights of both countries, Belisario Betancur said during his address to UTC workers. He said that to try to resolve these issues in a state of agitation would be absurd. He insisted that an effective Colombian-Venezuelan integration process is necessary to prevent the drain of manpower to the neighboring country that leaves Colombia's rural areas unprotected, a phenomenon which he feels has caused a great number of problems.

Betancur said that joint exploitation of resources is a goal which should be realized to provide employment, with equitable salaries, to Venezuelans and Colombians.

He said that the mechanism of Colombian-Venezuelan integration should be utilized to solve the problem of illegal immigrants, who are undoubtedly attracted by the wages in Venezuela which are higher than those in Colombia. He suggested the creation of joint companies, which could alleviate the problem of illegal immigrants, because this would create employment for thousands of persons. He suggested that this be followed by the joint exploitation of resources to achieve the best use of these resources.

Betancur was speaking at a national forum of the UTC.

LABOR MINISTER OSCAR MONTOYA RESIGNS

PA280225Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0219 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 27 Apr (AFP)--Colombian Minister of Labor Oscar Montoya tonight handed in his resignation, it was officially reported.

The official's resignation was directly related to the investigation of a coffee smuggling case which recently resulted in the dismissal of Humberto Vargas, the minister's private secretary.

LIBERAL, RADICAL LIBERAL PARTIES WITHDRAW REGISTRATION

Liberals' 'Temporary' Action

PA271620Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The Liberal Party has temporarily withdrawn from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal the registration petition for the presidential candidacy of Francisco Huerta Montalvo and his running mate, Blasco Pena Herrera. Daniel Alvarez Tenorio, the party's acting director, explained that the action was taken because of Huerta Montalvo's decision to undertake the defense of the FEDESARROLLO case. Once the case has been terminated, the party will again submit the registration petition to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal for its approval.

Liberal party leaders have said that all this is part of a plot to destroy the presidential aspirations of Huerta Montalvo, who, on the other hand, has denounced that a big electoral fraud is being planned. Huerta Montalvo said that although the FEDESARROLLO case has nothing to do with politics, his enemies could try to use it to try to damage his prestige. However, he added that since all charges have been proven false, he is not worried about it.

FEDESARROLLO, a private enterprise of which Huerta Montalvo was the main representative, is accused of irregularities concerning a contract signed with the Finance Ministry.

Radical Liberals' Decision

PA272153Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1935 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] [intercepted in progress] composed of Drs Rodrigo Alvarez A., Rafael Arizaga Vega, Gonzalo Gonzalez Garcia and Jose Guerrero Bermudez, a few minutes ago issued the report requested by the acting director of the Ecuadorean Radical Liberal Party [PLR], Mr Alvarez Tenorio, on the withdrawal of the request for registration of the presidential candidacies of the cited party. Dr Jose Antonio Vaquero de la Calle, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, upon announcing the important point discussed during today's session, stated that, in line with the request, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal finds the law on elections does not contain any legal provision whatsoever encompassing the possibility of withdrawing candidacies to the presidency or vice presidency of the republic once they are submitted to this body. Moreover, in accordance with the provisions of Article 46 of the law on elections, every candidate must meet the requirements set forth in the constitution of the republic and in said law and must not be subject to any of the prohibitions established therein. Among the requirements for a candidate to the presidency of the republic, Article 47 of the same law states, Under Section A, Subparagraph K, that the candidate must not hold contracts with the state either personally or as a representative of any legal entity.

In the document dated 25 April 1978 submitted by the acting director of the PLR, it is stated that Dr Francisco Huerta Montalvo is still executive secretary of the board of the Foundation for Education and Development [FEDESAROLLO]. Consequently, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal states that, in view of the statement by the PLR's acting national director to the effect that said candidate to the presidency, Francisco Huerta Montalvo, is subject to the provisions of Subparagraph K of Sectin A of Article 47 of the law on elections, he cannot be a candidate to the presidency of the republic. In the same communication of 25 April 1978, upon filing for withdrawal of the candidacies of Drs Francisco Huerta Montalvo and Blasco Penaherrera Padilla, the PLR reiterates the request contained in the communication dated 11 April 1978. For this reason, the tribunal adopts this decision, strictly abiding by the facts and the law. In regard to the candidacy of Dr Penaherrera Padilla, it is observed that the PLR, upon registering him, omitted the formalities set forth in Article 52 of the law on elections.

PRESIDENT STRESSES SUPPORT FOR LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION

PY271627Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] President Francisco Morales Bermudez reasserted yesterday that Peru and Venezuela are jointly following the path of integration. The president indicated that the two countries firmly believe that the process of integration acquires broader and truer meaning within the framework of LAFTA and the Cartagena Agreement.

The president expressed Peru's desire for integration when he received the credentials of the new Venezuelan ambassador, Gen Francisco Alvarez Torres. During the ceremony Morales Bermudez indicated that traditional Venezuelan-Peruvian friendship will allow the two countries to face the challenges of today's world.

Morales Bermudez also expressed his desire to see peoples develop through the joint effort of Latin America.

In turn, the Venezuelan diplomat indicated that his mission in Peru will be to strengthen the bonds of friendship, fraternity and comradeship between Peru and Venezuela.

SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY LEADER ON NEW CONSTITUTION

PA271727Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 14 Apr 78 p 2 PA

[Statements by Mario Villaran Rivera, secretary general of Socialist Revolutionary Action Party and former deputy for Lima, published in "Entrevista Politica" column--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Constitution: Of Prime Importance

"The debate on a new constitution has great importance at this stage in which we are experiencing a transition from capitalism to socialism and increased public awareness of this fact. In the first place, interest is being focused on the complex ideas and political concepts which are going to be examined before the country in a new manner and from a different perspective. Consequently, the meaning of 'constitution' is no longer universally accepted; it is no longer a sacred term which embodies the supreme concept of the law. It will be seen that 'constitution' expresses only the interests and political will of the ruling class."

The Balance of Power Among the Three Government Branches

Villaran affirmed: "Instead of guaranteeing the rights of the people, 'the famous balance of power among the three government branches' makes it easier for the ruling class to exercise control since all it has to do to halt the democratic advance of the country is to 'seize' or 'keep' one of the branches."

Interesting Critical Examinations: What Is Behind the Acronyms?

Regarding the constituent assembly, Villaran Rivera noted: "These critical examinations will also disclose what 'the representatives to the constituent assembly' will truly represent, that is, what specific interests are behind their acronyms, speeches and platforms. The conscientious masses, who are the true constituents of the nation, will mobilize according to these interests. Will the 100 persons who are supposedly to become 'representatives to the constituent assembly' reflect--in their internal numerical relationship--the true numerical relationship between the masses and the traditionally ruling oligarchic minorities?

"What would happen if most of the representatives to the constituent assembly were to represent only the interests of the country's minority? Should the 'minority' continue to draw up the 'constitution' and the 'laws?' Must the 'minority's' interests continue to be imposed upon the 'majority?'"

The List of Revolutionary Candidates

"The list is the result of two realities within the party: A) the old, without true popular representation, which has been almost erased; and B) the new, which has been emerging by linking the party to the struggles of the people and adopting a consistent revolutionary position with the working masses. Therefore, the list reflects a transition and--in a very small way--a transaction brought about by circumstances. The list includes progressive sectors which are known to have participated in the struggle for the defense of national interests, the struggle against imperialism and the struggle for the defense of the interests of the working class against the defeatist oligarchy."

Why Was There No Leftist Front?

"Only circumstances have prevented the formation of a popular front. What circumstances? An electoral law established for that purpose, as has been proven by several leftist organizations, and the difficulty of starting talks among parties and groups--some of them already formed and others in the process of formation following a prolongued compulsory silence caused by imprisonments, deportations and a continued state of emergency. A step has been taken. Other steps will be taken. The political structure necessary for the transformations demanded by the people will emerge. The upcoming months will show us how the masses are going to open the way."

A Change, If Possible, in a Peaceful Manner

"The joint struggle for power. [sentence as published] The unpatriotic right is the negation of the fatherland and constitutes its economic and financial collapse. It is Peru's defeat.

"The left indicates the only path that we as a people must follow. Civilians and military alike are linked to the destiny of our fatherland. Peru must be rebuilt following the disorganization, chaos and shady deals. This can be accomplished only by the Peruvian left. It is our great historic alternative. Eliminating this alternative or obstructing it with dirty tricks is no solution. The struggle for national development and the welfare of the people is our great challenge, our great task and we must carry it out peacefully, if possible, but we must carry it out.

"In closing, we repeat: 'All power to the people.'"

BRIEFS

CHARTER OF MINISTRY APPROVED--The government has approved the organic charter of the Ministry of Industries, Commerce, Tourism and Integration. According to this charter, this ministry will set the guidelines and will execute the policies in these four areas in harmony with the overall government policy. [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Apr 78 FY]

INMECAFE DIRECTOR ARRESTED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

FL262355Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2130 GMT 26 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Apr (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Fausto Cantu Pena, director of the state entity the Mexican Coffee Institute--INMECAFE--was arrested in Acapulco, 300 km south of this capital, as a result of an investigation into a $10 million embezzlement from the Mexican Treasury.

Cantu Pena was in the company of other INMECAFE officials at a luxurious residence at that international summer resort. Members of the federal judicial police under the command of Comdr Florentino Ventura went to that location to arrest the INMECAFE director and his six guests and later transferred them to this capital abroad a private jet.

The arrest of Cantu Pena and his collaborators was carried out with complete discretion. Once in this capital they were placed in the charge of the republic's attorney general.

A reliable source believes that Cantu Pena and the officials who were with him became involved in a large embezzlement related to the buying and selling of coffee. Recently some police officials carried out an investigation along the border with the United States in search of documents proving the existence of coffee contraband. The North American border police cooperated in this task and gave the Mexican investigators great quantities of documents which cited movements 2 years ago of the illegal entry of 45,500 bags of Mexican coffee into the United States.

The result of the investigation lead to the capture of Pena and the other officials, and it is believed that they may be involved in other embezzlements relating to the sale of Mexican coffee abroad.

Fausto Cantu is the fourth important official to have been arrested by the judicial authorities. Those arrested earlier include former Agrarian Reform Secretary Felix Barra, and Alfredo Rio Camarena, both government officials under former President Luis Echeverria, and Eugenio Mendez Docurro, former deputy public education secretary of the present government and former communication secretary of the Echeverria government--all have been involved in various types of frauds, embezzlements and negotiations which are detrimental to Mexico.

New INMECAFE Director Named

FL272116Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2108 GMT 27 Apr 78 FL

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 27 Apr (ANSA-INFORMEX)--The administrative board of the state enterprise Mexican Coffee Institute, INMECAFE, last night appointed Manuel Aguilera Gomez as new INMECAFE director, replacing Fausto Cantu Pena who has been arrested and is being prosecuted for embezzlement.

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCES VISIT OF SPANISH KING

FL252112Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2103 GMT 25 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Apr (ANSA-INFORMEX)--The Spanish king and queen, Juan Carlos and Sofia, will make an official visit to Mexico in the second half of November, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat announced today. The announcement has been confirmed by Spanish sources. The schedule of activities in which the Spanish king and queen will be involved in Mexico is now being drafted and it will be released at the proper time.

TORRIJOS MEETS UNITED BRANDS COMPANY EXECUTIVE

PA271337Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos said during an exclusive interview with this station after meeting in this capital with Seymour Milstein, president of the United Brands Company, that what would have become an area of conflict has definitely become an area of investment with the ratification of the treaties.

At his home in the capital, the chief of government met with the fruit company president, its general manager in Panama, Vice President Gerardo Gonzalez, Ambassador Lewis Galindo, economic adviser Ernesto Perez Balladares and other officials.

Torrijos termed the visit by the fruit company's executive a token of confirmation that just a few days after the ratification of the treaty there has been an upsurge of investment, faith and confidence in the country. During the meeting, Milstein noted that his company exports 100 million boxes of bananas every year and that 35 percent of that, in other words, 35 million boxes, comes from production in Panama. He also voiced interest in expanding the production of Panamanian independent producers and buying bananas from them, thus turning our country into the most reliable source of the product.

Milstein remarked that the fruit company is facing difficulties in obtaining credit from banks because the Panamanian Government is participating in the marketing of bananas through the multinational Banana Marketing Corporation [COMUNBANA]. He stated that his company would be willing to pay cash for the independent producers' output. The chief of government said that a system of coexistence between private business and the government is being practiced in Panama and that this system will be used as a model by other countries in the future.

Torrijos said that there is room for everyone in this business. COMUNBANA, the multinational Central American [Meso Americana] enterprise that markets bananas, was the materialization of the idea that the banana-producing countries should draw larger benefits from the value added to bananas through the processing and distribution of the fruit.

During the meeting, Torrijos informed Milstein that Vice President Gonzalez and Bobby Walker, general manager of the fruit company in Panama, would maintain contacts in order to draw mutual benefits from the banana company's operations. He said that he personally would keep very close track of this relationship.

During the meeting, Milstein added that his company seeks benefits not only for itself but for Panama as well since this is the only way that they could be good partners. He went on: I am aware of the poor record we have. I cannot change that. But we can learn from the past and look to the future along with you, meaning Torrijos.

The United Brands Company plans to invest 6 million balboas in its operation in our country and in the national financial corporation. The talks between the Panamanian Government and the U.S. executives continued during a working luncheon hosted by General Torrijos in his home.

Before lunch, Ambassador Gabriel Lewis Galindo reminded our news director that Seymour Milstein was one of those who spoke on behalf of Panama before the U.S. Senate and contributed greatly to the ratification of the treaties. He also noted that he served the process by carrying out sensitive missions for the White House.

Asked whether he noted any change in the banana company's attitude, the chief of government said: Yes, this is a second edition of the United Brands Company. It is a completely new company after the problems of the banana war. It is a company with which one can work. It consults with the government. It is not a company that imposes things as in the past. Now it holds consultations. One can work with it and its new procedures are entirely palatable.

LAKAS TO BECOME MEMBER OF CANAL JOINT ADMINISTRATION

PA270428Y Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Julio Ortega commentary]

[Text] Our scoop of today is that His Excellency President of the Republic Demetrio B. Lakas has been chosen to be a member of the joint administration of the Panama Canal as soon as the [treaty ratification] notes are exchanged and the new treaty goes into effect.

I understand that the notes and procedures have already been initiated and that the only delay now is for the U.S. acceptance, something which is taken for granted.

The president of the republic went to school in the United States. He is an engineer. He has occupied the presidency of the republic. He is a very able person, and he appears as the right man for this joint administration, for this board of directors. I do not recall how it is to be composed. So much has been said about its composition, whether it is five and four or three and two. I do not know how it will be, but anyhow, one of the members will be the president of the republic. This is according to a reliable source of ours who is very close to this matter.

So this is today's scoop: As soon as his presidential term expires, the president of the republic will be available for his new post as a member of the joint administration of the Panama Canal that will be established on the basis of the new treaties.

LEWIS GALINDO TO END MISSION AFTER EXCHANGE OF TREATY NOTES

PA280316Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Our news director, Fernando Eleta Casanova, interviewed Ambassador Gabriel Lewis Galindo at Tocumen airport as he left this morning, asking him why he was returning to the United States so quickly.

[begin recording] [Lewis] The reason I am going to Washington today is for a meeting there tomorrow with high-ranking U.S. officials, including the U.S. ambassador to Panama, Mr Jorden. The object is to immediately coordinate the necessary steps for the exchange of notes for the treaties' ratification. In Washington I will also discuss the possible trip of President Jimmy Carter to Panama.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to say that I believe that with the exchange of notes for the treaty ratification my mission in the United States will have ended. I will always be thankful to General Torrijos for having given me the opportunity to serve the fatherland in this historical negotiation. However, I believe it is necessary that all Panamanians recognize and feel very proud of the great courage and patriotism which Omar Torrijos demonstrated in such difficult moments for the fatherland.

His honorable position, inflexible against every pressure, resulted in the success we achieved. As far as I am concerned, I feel that I have served Panama with dignity and my friend with loyalty.

[Eleta] One more question before you leave. What is your opinion of the legislative process in the U.S. House of Representatives regarding the laws which must be debated and passed to make the treaties effective? How do you view that at this time?

[Lewis] That is a process which will take time, but the Brooke reservation set a deadline of 31 March 1979 for the treaty to become effective. Therefore, the matter of when the Senate deals with it is immaterial to us at this time. We know that it will not go beyond that date and I do not believe it will occur before then because the U.S. Senate has a work backlog as a result of the delay caused by the Panama Canal treaty. I believe the process will be slow. But, I repeat, it should not worry us because the implementation is obligatory. [end recording]

EXILES RELEASE COMMUNIQUE, HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

Nine-Point Communique

PA2804457 Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 0220 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text of public statement by Panamanian political exiles as read by Jorge Tristan, deputy secretary general of the Economics Association of the University of Panama, at university forum in school of architecture sponsored by Coordinating Committee of Independent University Movement attended by opposition leaders, university students and professors, and former exiles--live]

[Text] The spokesmen for the groups of Panamanians exiled by the present government who are now living in Venezuela, Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras, Sweden and the United States have considered it opportune to make a public statement of our commitments in the view of the present state of affairs in the country and in this respect resolve:

1. To reaffirm our rejection of the Torrijos-Carter treaties because they are considered detrimental to national dignity and sovereignty.

2. To continue the struggle for the return of all exiles to the country, without the fear of legal action, threats or political reprisals.

3. To demand from the national government satisfactory explanations concerning the whereabouts of persons who have disappeared for political reasons since 11 October 1968 up to the present date, as well as the return of the remains of persons killed in confrontations with the National Guard or while under National Guard custody.

4. To demand the submission of the Torrijos-Carter treaties to a national plebiscite because the amendments, reservations and understandings added to the treaties by the U.S. Senate have converted them into treaties which are completely different from those which were originally presented.

5. To demand that this plebiscite be covered by minimum guarantees regarding the authenticity and purity of the vote, which, among other things, could include: A) the most absolute freedom of discussion; B) free access to all communications media; C) equal representation on the electoral inspection teams such as the polling booth boards at the district, provincial, national and other levels, composed of sectors which support and those which oppose the treaty ratification; D) the use of official voter registration lists; and E) compulsory use of identity cards by voters.

6. To oppose President Carter's visit to the country, because we consider it an affront to national dignity.

7. To denounce the so-called political opening because it does not take into consideration the real participation of all political sectors through an authentic electoral process that will guarantee the existence of a democratic government in Panama.

8. To struggle for the full enforcement of democratic freedoms and civil rights of all Panamanians to participate in the different public activities which may be programmed to attain these objectives.

9. To demand the convening of a national constituent assembly with the object of democratizing the structures of the country's political institutions.

With the object of fulfilling the foregoing action program, the undersigned go on record to declare the unity of all the groups in exile and make a joint appeal to all organizations, movements, unions, student groups, political parties and all patriots to join the struggle to attain the aforementioned goals.

[dated] Panama, 26 April 1978

Signed by the groups of exiled Panamanians

Report on News Conference

PA280141Y Panama City televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] The group of exiles who recently returned to this country held a news conference this afternoon at 1630 in the Green Room of the Executive Hotel to release a communique on Panama's social and political situation.

Carlos Gonzalez de la Lastra, who acted as the group's moderator, began the news conference by reading the exiles' communique, which stressed the group's unity and the need to point out to the government the issues currently affecting them.

After the communique was read, the news conference was opened to questions from local and foreign newsmen, who represented various newspapers and television stations.

Answering a question by this station's Itzel de Rangel on how they explained the presence there of exiles who are of different ideologies, and what their common objectives are, the exiles said that the government wants to divide them in order to weaken their political opposition and that for this reason they feel it is important for them to unite at this point. Ivan Robles added that the government also represents contradictory groups, so they would like the same question to be asked of the government.

A Colombian newsman asked if, in opposing President Carter's visit to Panama, they are also opposing the visit of the presidents of Colombia, Venezuela and Costa Rica, who are also scheduled to come to Panama. To this, the exiles' spokesmen answered that all presidents who support the Torrijos-Carter treaty would be rejected by the group since, according to them, the treaties are an outrage against the Panamanian people.

This station's reporter also asked the exiles what historic, political and social bases they have for addressing and representing the Panamanian people. Winston Robles answered that although it is true they do not represent the Panamanian people, neither does the Panamanian Government since for the past 10 years the Panamanian people have not had a voice.

One of the foreign newsmen asked each of the exiles the reason for his expulsion from the country. Every one of them responded that they did not know why they were subjected to approximately 27 months of exile and said that they did not understand why the national press had often represented them as being members of both the left and the right.

Exiles Winston Robles, Ivan Robles, Alvin Weeden, Roberto Eisenmann Jr, Humberto Lopez, Jorge Weeden, Miguel Antonio Bernal, Jorge Turner, Guillermo Ford and Carlos Gonzalez de la Lastra attended the news conference. The event was also attended by representatives of the Panamenist Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Liberal Party, the Movement of the Independent Lawyers and various university student groups.

PEOPLE'S PARTY ISSUES MANIFESTO ON UPCOMING ELECTIONS

PA271438Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The People's Party plans to take advantage of the 6 August legislative elections to achieve the ideological defeat and the reduction of the political significance of bourgeois reformism which, according to the party's own manifesto, is led by Gen Omar Torrijos. In the manifesto, the People's Party discusses its members' participation in the upcoming elections and notes that one of its goals is to defeat the combined forces of the oligarchy and reduce bourgeois reformism's involvement in state affairs.

However, one of the paragraphs of the manifesto speaks of workers and peasants joining the revolutionary petit bourgeoisie led by General Torrijos. The communist party manifesto also notes that the revolutionary process, under the predominant leadership of bourgeois reformism, has begun to undergo a crisis which can be most visibly noted in the economy. This crisis breaks down into a crisis of the old institutions and a crisis in the growth of new means of production.

Deep down, the communist party says, it is a political crisis of the leaders of the process. The manifesto states that a basic problem which the process will face is its definition. Its eclecticism and spontaneity will have to be resolved and the process will have to advance firmly either along a capitalist or noncapitalist path.

The People's Party sees the upcoming elections as an opportunity to deal a smashing electoral defeat to the oligarchy and to change the correlation of forces in power by eliminating the predominance of bourgeois reformism. The manifesto says that the communists' electoral propaganda should sow hatred for the oligarchy and mistrust of bourgeois reformism.

The electoral goal will be to improve numerically and quantitatively the communist's parliamentary representation--in their defect, that is, in the absence of communist candidates, to support figures who are loyal to the progressive policy of General Torrijos, and only as a last resort to support bourgeois reformist figures.

REPORT ON REGISTRATION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NOMINEES

PA270136Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 Apr 78 p 7A PA

[From "Glosas Vespertinas" column]

[Excerpts] The electoral organization bureau has informed the Electoral Tribunal that as of "Monday, 17 April, 13 days away from the closing of the registration of supporters, the number of hopefuls to become members of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives throughout the whole country totaled 2,384 nominees. A total of 317,157 supporters have endorsed their nominations in the registration books supplied by the Electoral Tribunal."

A word to the wise is sufficient. According to Labor Minister Adolfo Ahumada's remarks on Mayin Correa's Edicion Especial program last night, plans for the political party of the revolution are underway. This is a bit of news that the thousands of followers of the revolutionary process were waiting to hear.

COMMERCE OFFICIAL REPORTS ON TRADE WITH CENTRAL AMERICA

PA272022Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Our country has signed various bilateral commerical agreements with Central American countries. Products imported are mostly fertilizers, dry batteries, insecticides and pharmaceutical products. We interviewed Gustavo Villa, who is in charge of the international trade office of the Commerce and Industries Ministry and who referred to the countries with which Panama has commercial agreements, noting the products involved.

[begin Villa recording] Thus far, Panama has signed five bilateral agreements, one with each and every Central American country--Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica. We should stress here that the first treaty was signed with Costa Rica and Nicaragua in 1963. It was called the south tripartite treaty because it involved the southern tip of the Central American isthmus and because there was another tripartite treaty, the north tripartite treaty, between Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

Since that time Panama has really begun its new experience in bilateral commercial agreements. And this subsequently led to the signing of another treaty with the Republic of El Salvador in 1971 and with Nicaragua and Costa Rica in 1972, renewing the agreement which was originally signed in 1961 but which entered into force in 1963. This agreement replaced the one which was called the south tripartite treaty.

A treaty was later signed with Honduras and the last one was signed in 1974 with the Republic of Guatemala. This completed the series of commercial agreements with Central American countries.

Panama has imported approximately $85 million and has exported approximately $41 million. In other words, trade between Central America and Panama, based on the commercial agreements, over that 5-year period reaches the important sum of $126 million. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S STATEMENT ON FISHING POLICY

PA271354Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Statement by President-elect Rodrigo Carazo on 26 April 1978--read by announcer]

[Text] It is my duty to let the people know the opinion of the next government regarding the future of fishing in Costa Rica. We believe that the international agreement on this matter that was signed in 1949 and ratified by Costa Rica in 1951 is obsolete. That agreement was based on standards and systems in effect after World War II. Since the passage of the constitutional amendment that widened our territorial waters to 200 miles. Costa Rica has had one of the greatest fishing potentials in the world.

Our government is going to place special emphasis on this, and it will undertake every legal and material effort necessary to eliminate every possibility for damaging our sea resources; damage has been taking place under the existing agreements. During the first months of our government, we will announce Costa Rica's withdrawal from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. We will seek the best instruments that will, in the first place, contribute to preserving our marine species and, in the second place, insure that Costa Ricans are the ones who benefit from the exploitation of our sea.

ODUBER STATES HE WAS MISQUOTED ON POLITICAL PLANS

PA272318Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Before leaving this morning for Juan Vinas, where he is attending an official ceremony, President Daniel Oduber drafted a letter which he sent to the director of the newspaper LA REPUBLICA. The following is the text of the letter:

San Jose, 27 April 1978

Director LA REPUBLICA

Dear sir: Once again your newspaper has been misinformed and has misinformed its readers. The banner headline on today's edition of your newspaper quotes me as saying in Cartago: "I want to return to the presidency." Fortunately, nothing is farther from the truth. Luckily, the other morning newspaper, LA NACION, published the correct version.

The president's letter continues: I said that as soon as the constitution and the laws allow me to participate again in politics, I will be in the frontline. It is very simple: The legal ban on my active participation in politics ends on 8 May at 1200. As of that moment, I will return to politics--to whatever I deem as most advantageous to the country at that point. At no time did I say what your headline states.

Sincerely yours, Daniel Douber, president of the republic

SECURITY MINISTER LEAVES ON SHORT VISIT TO PANAMA

PA272244Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Public Security Minister Mario Charpentier has left for Panama City and the Canal Zone to bid farewell to the military authorities there now that he is about to conclude his activities at the ministry.

Charpentier, who described his trip as a social visit, said he was going to Panama to personally express the government's gratitude for the good relations and coordination that exist between Costa Rican and Panamanian authorities. While in Panama, the minister will be feted by his Panamanian counterpart.

According to Charpentier, on returning from this short trip, he will explain the port authorities' actions in the tuna boats case. The boats sailed from Punta Arenas Bay last night after learning the verdict reached by the authorities at Santa Cruz de Guanacaste.

EL SALVADOR

TWO POLICEMEN KILLED IN CLASH AT BUS TERMINAL

PA280239Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2310 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Two police agents were killed and another wounded in an armed clash this afternoon at the Oriente bus terminal in San Salvador. So far no information is available on the cause of the incident, but some witnesses said a group of armed civilians engaged in a clash with police. It is believed that the assailants were members of one of the subversive groups operating in El Salvador.

GUATEMALA

SPOKESMAN REACTS TO U.S. REFUSAL TO SELL ARMS

PA270123Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1932 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 26 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The new refusal of the United States to sell arms to the Guatemalan Army "will make us seek and obtain them from some other place," the secretary of public relations of the presidency declared today. "Guatemala reserves the right to buy from any source the arms needed by the army to modernize itself," he stressed.

The statements were prompted by the U.S. refusal to sell Guatemala six "F-5 fighters" which could increase the level of military preparedness in Central America. Guatemala did not accept the condition of "investigation of human rights" which was to be made by U.S. institutions and announced that it was ready to buy arms "wherever necessary, but without relinquishing its sovereign rights," which it reiterated today.

DEFENSE MINISTER CHARGES CUBAN ADVISERS IN BELIZE

PA272243Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2230 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The presence of Cuban advisers in Belize has been confirmed by the Guatemalan Army, Defense Minister Gen Otto Spiegeler Noriega reported here today, Thursday. The general accused Fidel Castro of sending people to Belize to cause a climate of unrest that would be detrimental to Guatemala in its recovery of the territory under dispute with England for over a century.

Cuba's presence in Belize will only make more difficult the negotiations for arriving at a peaceful settlement, Spiegeler Noriega added, but refused to comment when asked if anything definite will be done in connection with the charge.

GUATEMALA CITY MUNICIPAL WORKERS END STRIKE

PA271610Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The municipal workers strike has ended. The strike declared by the Guatemala City municipal workers' emergency committee ended yesterday through the mediation of Romeo Alvarado Rolanco, dean of the school of political and social sciences. The workers went on strike demanding wage increases, but municipal authorities would not yield to their demands.

The strike, which paralyzed the municipality's administrative activities for 10 consecutive days, resulted in losses of 400,000 quetzales, or $400,000.

HONDURAS

FOREIGN MINISTER ON RESIGNATION OF SALVADORAN COLLEAGUE

PA271200Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The mediation process will not suffer any changes. Honduran Foreign Minister Col Roberto Palma Galvez last night stated that there had been no serious differences during the negotiations with El Salvador that would have caused the resignation of Foreign Minister Alvaro Ernesto Martinez. [Words indistinct] the only thing left for me to do, Palma Galvez said, is to deplore Martinez' withdrawal, for I believe he is an honest person, a true gentleman and a very capable man. I am sure that if he had remained in his post Honduras and El Salvador would have found formulas acceptable to both countries.

Palma Galvez felt that Martinez' resignation would not affect the course of the negotiations since there are deadlines that must be met. He recalled that when there were rumors of his separation from the Honduran [as heard] Foreign Ministry he stated that the policy of a government is already planned and that the only thing for the government's officials to do is to carry it out. For this reason, there will be no changes in the negotiations.

Reports received from El Salvador last night revealed that Martinez' replacement will be former Foreign Minister Francisto Jose Guerrero, who is known in Honduras as the minister of the war because he was the foreign minister at the time of the armed conflict between the two countries in 1969. Palma Galvez said he had met Guerrero in Guatemala but did not know him very well. He believes Guerrero is a very capable man with good intentions, but could not give more details about him as he does not know him as well as he knows Foreign Minister Martinez. Finally, Palma Galvez said that according to the agreements Honduran and Salvadoran delegations must go to Lima to deliver the joint documents on the agreements on principle to the mediator, Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero.

Advisers Pedro Pineda Madrid and Andres Alvarado Puerto had reactions similar to that of Palma Galvez when they found out about Foreign Minister Martinez' resignation. They agreed that the mediation agreement would not be affected by Martinez' resignation since the two governments had signed an agreement and were responsible for the positive benefits they will obtain from it regardless of the names of the men who implement it.

LABOR ORGANIZATION ACCUSES CIA OF PLOTTING COUP

PA271402Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2210 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--An interunion committee of Honduras northern coast today accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of involving Honduran personalities in a plot to overthrow Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro's government.

The alleged coup was supposed to have been staged in early February 1977 and was also aimed at replacing Policarpo Paz Garcia, the armed forces chief.

Leaders of the interunion organization, which is composed of "progressive" trade unions, made the revelations during a new conference held to reject charges against them appearing in "false documents" found recently at another trade union organization. According to those documents, the coup was to have been headed by Francisco Ruiz Andrade, the incumbent defense minister, with counseling from University Rector Jorge Arturo Reina and Edmond L. Bogran, owner of the newspaper TIEMPO, as well as other business and trade union leaders. The movement was supposed to start by destabilizing Melgar Castro's government through strikes, fires, guerrilla outbreaks, kidnapings and assassinations of military personnel.

The labor leaders feel that the plan was part of a maneuver by CIA agents and Cuban exiles to force the military government to unleash a "brutal repression" against the popular organizations which support the 1974-1980 development plan drafted by the preceding administration of Gen Oswaldo Lopez Arellano. As some of its main features, the plan provides for the large-scale distribution of land to peasants and the recovery of natural resources from foreign hands.

None of the labor leaders mentioned the plotters by name but said that the scheme had been afoot since 1972, when Lopez Arellano seized power and announced the structural changes to be carried out through this reform plan.

Questioned about his alleged involvement in the plot, Ruiz Andrade said that he knew nothing about it. He said that his involvement in these maneuvers has been mentioned for days to cause him harm.

Other persons mentioned in the documents also denied having any knowledge of any attempt to overthrow Melgar Castro's government.

NICARAGUA

NEW OPPOSITION GROUP CALLS FOR SOMOZA'S OVERTHROW

PA270415Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0205 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--In its first political manifesto, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN) stated today that the final struggle against the government of President Anastasio Somoza "must take place right now."

The new political opposition group is made up of businessmen, industrialists, professionals and other persons who had not wished to join any of the existing organizations. The MDN is headed by business leader Alfonso Robelo Callejas.

The MDN manifesto states that the present government cannot be a factor in changes in this country because it is the main reason "for all ills of the Nicaraguan family." The new movement has promised to struggle for the creation of a new Nicaragua based on justice, democracy and liberty and has reaffirmed its "rejection" of the present regime for a number of reasons. Some of the reasons pointed out by MDN are: "Election frauds, phoney reforms of the political constitution, undue denial of inscription requests made by political parties and the unjustified decreeing of the state of siege to suppress the activities of the opposition."

The MDN manifesto states: "The desperate Nicaraguan situation cannot last any longer because limits of tolerance have already been exceeded and there is an imperative need for firm and patriotic action that will bring immediate solutions."

The new movement, considering the present situation, is not in agreement with a search for solutions to Nicaraguan problems based on "discredited" dialog mechanisms or on long-term election plans that "do not coincide with the irreversible and firm attitude of rejection of the people."

The leader of this new movement, Alfonso Robelo, is the person who headed the Superior Council of Private Initiative [Consejo Superior de la Iniciativa Privada] during the 15-day national lockout conducted by the business sector in January and March. [as received] That strike by the Nicaraguan private sector was aimed at overthrowing the government of General Somoza, who was asked by the strikers and by opposition political parties to resign. On that occasion, Somoza warned that he would not leave the presidency until 1981, when his second term in office expires.

SANDINISTS ROB BANK, BUSINESSMAN; FIRES SET

PA251717Y MANAGUA Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 25 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) yesterday netted over 600,000 cordobas in two armed robberies. One occurred at noon yesterday in Jinotepe at a branch of the Bank of Nicaragua, where four armed men carried away over half a million cordobas. The other was in Leon, where four Sandinists held up businessmen Alejandro Marquin in his home and took 140,000 cordobas and valuable jewels. They escaped in his jeep.

In another report it was learned that three buses were burned in Managua and that the home of Liberal Party Deputy Rene Molina in Esteli was set on fire.

REPRESENTATIVES OF MANAGUA SCHOOLS HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

PA270118Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2309 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Managua--Representatives of 14 Managua schools revealed in a press conference today, that in the capital there are 46 schools closed at this moment, many of which are in the hands of the students. The students pointed out their firm determination regarding the seven basic points, adding the reopening of Radio Mundial and the National School of Agriculture as two more points. The students said they will submit these points and their arguments to Education Minister Maria Elena de Porras at a meeting on a date and place of her own choosing. They concluded that they still insist on their demands and, if the minister refuses to talk, they will ask the central government for her dismissal.

MENGISTU, ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION DEPART FOR HOME

FL271421Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1402 GMT 27 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of socialist Ethiopia's Council of Ministers, today left to return to his country following the end of his official visit to Cuba. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, Cuban Communist Party [PCC] Central Committee first secretary and Council of State president, and Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee and first vice president of the Council of State, bade farewell to the distinguished guest at Jose Marti International Airport in this capital.

At 0545 the Ethiopian leader walked toward the plane and at the foot of the ramp bid farewell to the PCC Politburo, Secretariat and Central Committee members who were there to wish him a happy trip. Mengistu and Fidel then embraced. As the Ethiopian leader went up the ramp, he was applauded by those present.

Radio Hails Visit

PA271535Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The visit to Cuba by Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, prime minister and chairman of the provisional government of socialist Ethiopia, in response to an invitation by leader of the revolution Fidel Castro is considered a moving demonstration of militant internationalism. The Ethiopian leader came to Cuba shortly after the culmination of the courageous and successful military operations in the Ogaden. Thus, the heroic people of Ethiopia, aided by international Cuban fighters and with the decided support of the Soviet Union and other socialist and revolutionary nations, broke up the plans of U.S. imperialism, NATO and reactionary Arab states to inflict a deadly blow against the Ethiopian revolution, to dismember its territory and to trample its people.

The Cubans understand the meaning of this visit to the world revolution. Cuba was visited by the leader of a true revolutionary process that has liberated over 30 million persons, victims of the feudal and enslaving barbarism which prevailed in Ethiopia even in the 20th century. The Ethiopian revolution swept away the oldest and perhaps one of the most repulsive monarchies of our times. It is a revolution which, as Fidel has stated, resembles the French and October revolutions because it confronted in bloody battle the harassment of internal and external reaction, eliminated the power of the aristocrats and landhoarders, and plans, above all, to advance toward socialism.

The historic encounter taking place between the revolutions of Ethiopia and Cuba [passage indistinct] of the Ethiopian process and when the relations between the two countries are closer and more fraternal. Our people feel quite close to their Ethiopian brothers, as they were and are with their Vietnamese and Angolan brothers.

We know by our own experience that, in addition to the vital defense needs, that nation faces extraordinary tasks in the fields of health, education, agriculture and in its material and cultural development.

Cuban-Ethiopian friendship was strengthened a little over a year ago during Fidel Castro's visit to Ethiopia. During that visit Fidel said: We are revolutionaries and we have a good eye to see where a revolution is taking place. We, he added, consider the Ethiopian revolution a truly historic feat. We consider it our duty to approach you, know you, and express our sentiments and solidarity and our determination to cooperate with the Ethiopian revolution, Fidel said to the leaders of that country.

Carrying out extensive socioeconomic changes has cost much blood, sweat, struggle and work. We know that we have carried out a true revolution. The Ethiopian revolution is still young, but already it has had to face powerful enemies. But the enemies of the Ethiopian people have failed because, as Fidel Castro told the magazine AFRIQUE-ASIE, it had as its leader a sober, intelligent, courageous and cool man who has extraordinary qualities of revolutionary leadership. That is why the current visit of Mengistu Haile Mariam to Cuba constitutes a great event for the Cubans' internationalist sentiments and consolidates the profound and indestructible friendship between the peoples.

ALMEIDA DEFENDS AFRICA POLICY, SUPPORTS NAMIBIA

FL270049Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Council of State Vice President Juan Almeida Bosque today accused the Western powers of being primarily responsible for the situation being experienced by the Namibian people under the illegal occupation of South Africa. In a speech to the UN General Assembly, the high-ranking Cuban leader asserted that UN resolutions on Namibia would have been applied and the suffering of its people would have ceased long ago if the principal capitalist powers had not given political, military, financial, economic and diplomatic support to South Africa. It has been exclusively that support which so far has paralyzed the United Nations and the only thing which has allowed the South African regime to maintain the most wicked exploitation system despite its unanimous rejection and condemnation by mankind, he emphasized.

Almeida condemned the Western plan for a so-called negotiated settlement for the independence of Namibia. He warned that the proposals are designed to gain time for the racists, spread confusion and deceit, and try to perpetuate the domination and oppression imposed on millions of Africans. The plan--sponsored by the United States, Great Britain, France, West Germany and Canada--proposes an accelerated process that would lead to the independence of that southern Africa territory at the end of this year but at a price of important concessions to the racist Pretoria regime.

If those states are truly interested in peacefully solving the Namibia issue, they know that for them the key lies in their own hands. Suffice it for them to put an end to the support of all types which they have been giving the Pretoria clique and force it to adhere to the pertinent UN resolutions, the Cuban leader stressed.

In a clear reference to Western proposals, he warned against any attempt to legalize directly or indirectly the South African presence in Namibia or ignore the positions of the South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO. He likewise referred to Western attempts to remove Walvis Bay from Namibian sovereignty. He compared the case with the Guantanamo Naval Base, which is illegally occupied by the United States against the will of the Cuban people and government.

The Cuban Council of State vice president called on the international community to demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all South African troops and military personnel from Namibia and the dismantling of its bases and installations and the administration illegally established there.

The highest-ranking Cuban leader to go to the United Nations since Maj Ernesto Che Guevara went there in 1964 categorically rejected distortions by some leaders of capitalist countries on the resolutions [as heard] of Cuba and Angola. Cooperation between Cuba and Angola, including that which we maintain in the military field, he emphasized, is a matter that exclusively concerns the sovereign, free and independent states of Cuba and Angola. He said that this is a matter which Cuba does not have to negotiate with anyone and about which we do not have to give explanations to any other state, much less to those which today are and always have been the worst enemies of Africa.

Lastly, the Cuban Council of State vice president reaffirmed his resolute support for SWAPO and the Namibian people in their just struggle against colonialism and racism.

ARMANDO HART RECEIVES HUNGARY'S KORNIDESZ

FL261726Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1704 GMT 26 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, PCC Politburo member and culture minister, this morning received the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] delegation headed by Mihaly Kornidesz, chiarman of the State Committee for Scientific, Public Education and Cultural Affairs Department of the MSZMP Central Committee. At the meeting the two leaders exchanged information on work done by the parties of Cuba and Hungary in the field of culture.

SOCIALIST WOMEN LEADERS ARRIVE FOR MEETING

FL270146Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], has received at Jose Marti air terminal a group of leaders of socialist women's organizations who will participate in an annual meeting. The meeting will be held in our country from 27 to 29 April. Valentina Teresnkova, president of the USSR Women's Committee and member of the CPSU Central Committee, is among the visitors.

The distinguished women were received at the Women's International Democratic Federation, WIDF, regional center by Dora Carcano, secretary general of the FMC and alternate member of the PCC Central Committee, and WIDF Secretary General Fanny Edelman.

HART DAVALOS CHAIRS CULTURE MINISTRY MEETING

FL260047Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The Ministry of Culture's quarterly assessment meeting is being held in Pinar del Rio under the chairmanship of Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and culture minister. At this meeting delegates are discussing administrative aspects of the reports which summarize the work done during the first quarter of this year. They also are discussing specific guidelines to be followed by development of the cultural policy in the months preceding the 11th World Youth and Student Festival. The meeting is also being charied by Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the PCC Central Committee and party first secretary in Pinar del Rio Province, and Orlando Lugo, president of the Provincial People's Government Assembly.

Closing Remarks

FL261231Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, PCC Politburo member and culture minister, has made the closing remarks at the Culture Ministry's quarterly meeting held in Pinar del Rio. In his remarks Hart outlined the basic directions of cultural work in the next few months up to the 11th World Youth and Students Festival. He pointed out the importance of carrying out all necessary checks on the cultural activities which will greet the 11th festival, and in general, to check for effective programming results in all instances. In reference to the educational aspect, he urged the provinces which have made plans to build art schools--Pinar del Rio, Havana, Holguin and Camaguey--to give these centers maximum priority.

RODRIGUEZ PRESIDES OVER CEREMONY FOR GARCIA INCHAUSTEGUI

FL271849Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, has spoken at the unveiling of a plaque to the memory of Cuban diplomat Mario Garcia Inchaustegui, who died recently in a plane accident. Others who attended the ceremony included Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, Foreign Trade Minister Marcelo Fernandez Font and State Committee for Economic Cooperation Minister-President Hector Rodriguez Llompart, all of them members of the PCC Central Committee.

Relatives and friends of the outstanding revolutionary and Japanese Ambassador to Cuba Takumi Hosaki participated in the unveiling ceremony of the plaque to the memory of Mario Garcia Inchaustegui.

In his remarks Carlo Rafael Rodriguez underscored the revolutionary spirit of Mario Garcia Inchaustegui in his defense of the revolution as well as the role he played at the meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay, and more recently in Chile, where he was our last ambassador.

ENVOY TO UN PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO WALDHEIM

FL220222Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The new Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, Raul Roa Kouri, today presented his credentials to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. The Cuban representative labeled his meeting with the top UN official as cordial and very fruitful. At the meeting Waldheim sent a personal greeting to the Cuban people and Council of State President Fidel Castro. Raul Roa Kouri replaces Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, who after 12 years as ambassador to the international organization was recently designated deputy foreign minister.

BRIEFS

NEW MERCHANT SHIP--The multipurpose ship Sandino has arrived in the port of Havana on its first transoceanic voyage to Cuba. (Julio Gomez Plana) stated that the ship has several means of navigation and controls of the main 11,200-horsepower engine, making it unique in the Cuban fleet. The ship is operated by the Transportation Ministry's Mambisa ship enterprise. It is 153 meters long and has a deadweight of 14,000 tons. The hold can carry 19,300 cubic meters of dry bulk cargo and 1,880 cubic meters of refrigerated cargo. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1926 GMT 21 Apr 78 FL]

GUYANA

SOVIET GEOLOGICAL TEAM ARRIVES IN COUNTRY

FL261615Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Apr 78 p 16 FL

[Text] The first of Soviet-Guyanese co-operation in the field of mineral exploration began this week with the arrival of a seven-man team of Soviet specialists to carry out feasibility studies in the development of bauxite, alumina and gold.

The visit, which began on Tuesday, has materialised as the result of a protocol to the Guyana-Soviet agreement on economic, scientific and technical co-operation which was signed on June 14, 1977. Articles 1 and 4 of the protocol provide for co-operation between Guyana and the Soviet Union in geological prospecting for bauxite and other solid-minerals.

The feasibility studies, as the first stage, are basically to determine the scope of this co-operation so that a definite programme could be established.

They range from the mechanised extraction of gold deposits to the improved extraction of bauxite and production of alumina in the Co-Operative Republic of Guyana.

Plans call for the Soviet team to visit a number of places to prospect in association with the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. These include Potaro, Konawaruk, Omai, El Dorado, Marudi Mountain; Rupununi, Lumidpau, to locate gold deposits and to Baramita, Five Stars and Matthew's Ridge, for gold and manganese.

They will also be visiting Guymine, as another part of their activities.

The entire visit will last exactly one month and the team is scheduled to depart on May 17.

PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM, DELEGATION VISIT DPRK

For reportage on the visit of the delegation led by Prime Minister Forbes Burnham to the DPRK, see the DPRK section of the Asia and Pacific DAILY REPORT beginning 21 April.

PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM VISITS GDR

For reportage of Prime Minister Forbes Burnham's activities in the GDR, see the GDR section of the 28 April DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

JAMAICA

END OF BUSTAMENTE DOCK STRIKE REPORTED

FL232159Y Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Apr 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Kingston, Sun--A one-week strike by supervisors at Kingston's Port Bustamente has been settled after a meeting called this morning by Labour Minister William Isaacs.

Supervisors have already returned to their jobs and other port workers, who stopped work on Wednesday in support of the supervisors, are to go back on Monday.

And the army, which moved onto the waterfront on Wednesday morning after supervisors defied a back to work order issued by the industrial disputes tribunal, have already been withdrawn.

The soldiers had been unloading and clearing goods from ships waiting at the docks.

The supervisors went on strike last week Friday, protesting the arrest of a colleague, after investigations into the theft from the dock of a truck load of salted fish.

The supervisors were also demanding that the security officer, whom they said was responsible for the arrest, should be transferred or removed.

But the Shipping Association of Jamaica, which is in charge of security on the wharf, refused the ultimatum which they said might jeopardise his career.

A board of enquiry into the matter is to be set up and Minister Isaacs assured the workers this morning that the members of the board would be named by Tuesday. A spokesman for the workers said that the enquiry would show to the public just how poor wharf security was.

The withdrawal of the army was one of the pre-conditions to a settlement.

PUBLIC MEETINGS, MARCHES BANNED BY GOVERNMENT

FL252015Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Apr 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Public meetings and marches have been banned island wide under an order made yesterday by the minister of national security, Senator Dudley Thompson.

The order, made under the Public Order Act, said that "no person shall organize, hold, speak at or attend any public meeting or any public march" in the island save in any case where a permit is issued.

Police commissioner Desmond Campbell told the GLEANER that demonstrations and marches at this time were likely to lead to disorder.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TEXACO LABOR PROBLEMS REPORTED

FL251601Y Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The Trinidad and Tobago Oilfield Workers Trade Union says it is prepared to accept a wage freeze for Texaco workers. However, the union has warned that it will only accept the wage freeze if the Eric Williams government nationalizes all Texaco operations in Trinidad. This development is the latest in the union's current dispute with Texaco over a new 3-year contract for the company's more than 7,000 weekly paid workers.

According to the president of the oilfield workers union (George Weeks), the decision was taken over the weekend at a meeting of the union's shop stewards. Mr (Weeks) added that the union would be writing to the appropriate ministers seeking a meeting to discuss the matter.

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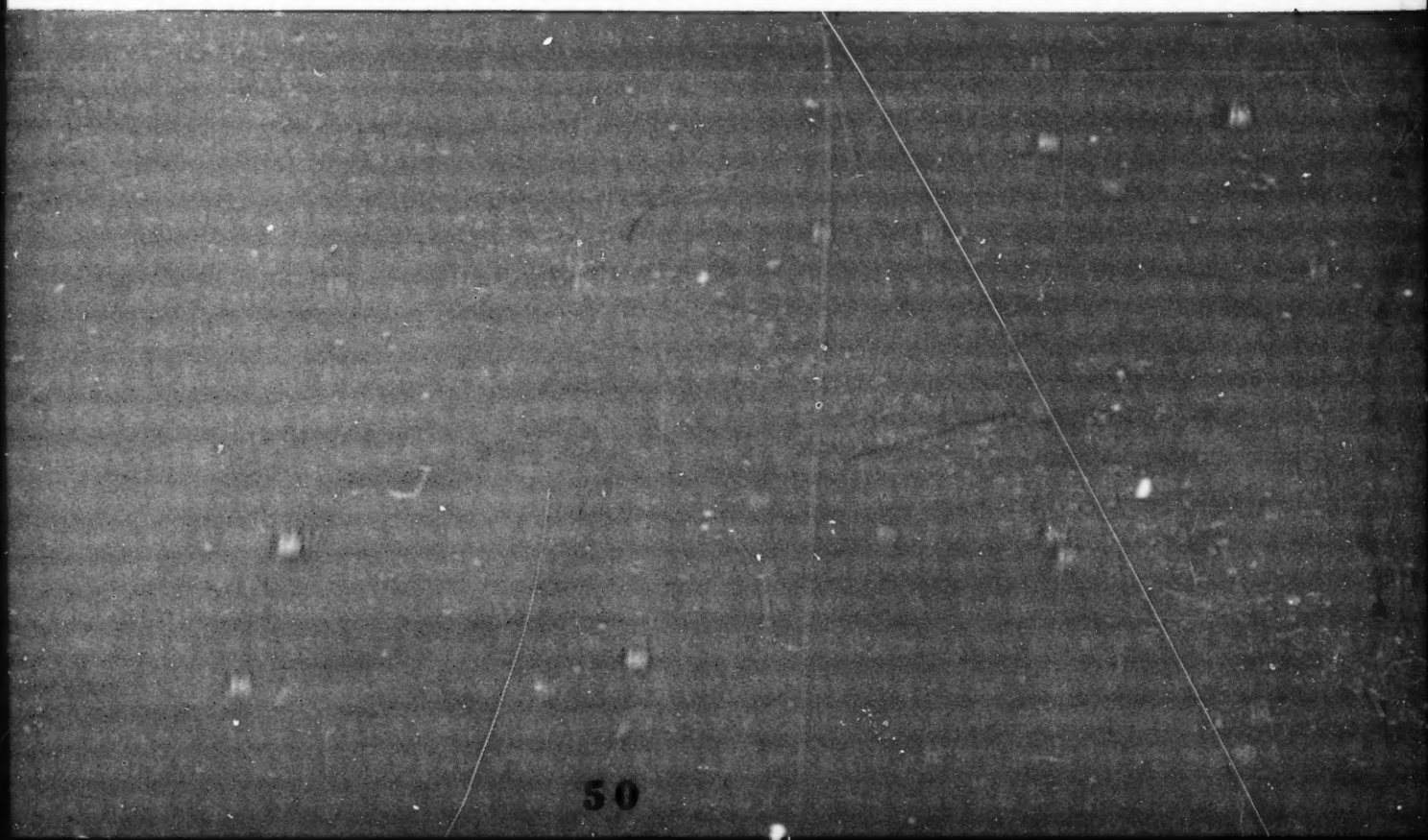
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